Assets of Yuvraj, Sonu Sood, others attached in betting case

P9

DH on Saturday

DECCAN HERALD

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Ball in court of Russia's opponents in Ukraine talks: Putin

P10

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DH on Saturday

DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

WHACKY VERSE

NREGA marega
It was named after Gandhi
So it wasn't looking dandy.
We call it G Ram G
And make it tangy–
And lo! A brand new candy!
MAHATMA GANDHI

Tilak shines as India beat SA, win series

Pandya, Varun play their part in 30-run win

P16

B'desh boils over death of July Uprising leader

Hindu man lynched over 'blasphemy'; attacks and vandalism in parts of country

DHAKA/NEW DELHI, PTI

Bangladesh interim government on Friday urged citizens to resist violence by "a few fringe elements" as the body of a prominent July Uprising leader, who died in Singapore six days after he was shot, reached Dhaka, and a Hindu man was lynched and his body set on fire over alleged 'blasphemy' in the restive country.

Various parts of the country were rocked Thursday night by attacks and vandalism, including stone-hurling at the Assistant Indian High Commissioner's residence in Chattogram, after Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus confirmed Sharif Osman Hadi's death in a televised address to the nation.

There were, however, no reports of fresh violence since Friday morning.

Hadi, one of the leaders who had taken part in the student-led protests last year — termed as July Uprising — and a candidate for the scheduled February 12 general elections, died while undergoing treatment at a Singapore hospital six days after he was shot by unidentified men.

Body of Hadi, who was the spokesperson of the Inqilab Mancha, arrived at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) at around 6 pm local time on a Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight, amid tight security and widespread public mourning.

Yunus has declared a one-day state mourning on Saturday.

Meanwhile, in the latest incident of violence against religious minorities in the country, a Hindu man was lynched and his body set on fire over alleged 'blasphemy'.

The deceased, identified as 25-year-old Dipu Chandra Das, was a factory worker in Mymensingh city, the *Bangla Tribune* news portal reported on Friday.

A youth shouts slogans during a protest over the death of a prominent leader, in Dhaka, on Friday. AP/PTI

ON THE EDGE

- Parts of Bangladesh rocked by attacks and vandalism on Thursday night
- Hindu man's body set on fire
- Violence coincides with death of July Uprising leader Hadi
- Assistant Indian High Commissioner's residence in Chattogram stoned
- Offices of Prothom Alo & Daily Star newspapers attacked
- Office of cultural group, Chhayanaut, attacked
- No reports of fresh violence since Friday morning

In a statement, the interim government on Friday condemned the incident, saying there is no space for such violence in the new Bangladesh. "The perpetrators of this heinous crime will not be spared," it added.

Das was first beaten up by a mob outside the factory over blasphemy allegations on Thursday night and hanged from a tree. "After the incident, the angry crowd left the body of the deceased on the side of the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway and set it on fire," Inspector (Investigation) of Bhaluka Model Police Station Abdul Malek was quoted as saying by the news portal.

▸ Bangladesh, Page 3A

Power tussle gets intense amid fresh volleys by Siddu, DKS

High command in my favour: CM in Assembly

BELAGAVI, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah claimed in the Assembly that the Congress high command was "in my favour" and asserted that no decision was made on him staying at the helm for only two-and-a-half years.

Siddaramaiah said this during a segue into politics while replying on the North Karnataka discussion on Friday.

"The BJP will never come to power in Karnataka. Congress will retain power in 2028 and 2033," Siddaramaiah said.

Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka retorted that Siddaramaiah kept saying the same thing about BJP's BS Yediyurappa. "But Yediyurappa became CM four times," Ashoka said.

"You [BJP] didn't allow Yediyurappa to complete a full five-year term," Siddaramaiah said. In a taunt, Ashoka said the Congress high commmand had decided that Siddaramaiah will get only a half term.

"I was CM for a full five-year term once. I have become the CM for a second term. According to me, the high command is in my favour. But whatever the high command decides, we will follow," he said.

When BJP members pressed him further, Siddaramaiah said no decision was taken that he would be the CM only for two-and-a-half years.

"It is not the BJP that says you will be CM for just 2.5 years. We are asking if your high command and MLAs want that for you," BJP's V Sunil Kumar said.

"I have been chosen (in the Congress Legislature Party meeting) for five years," Siddaramaiah said.

I was CM for a full five-year term once. I have become the CM for a second term
Siddaramaiah

▸ Siddu, Page 3A

Leadership forged pact between me, CM: DKS

KARWAR, DHNS

Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and he have reached an agreement on power sharing.

He told reporters after offering prayers at Jagadeeshwari Ammanavaru Temple in Ankola's Andle village in Uttara Kannada district on Friday, "The chief minister and I have reached an agreement. The high command has forged an agreement. Both of us will go according to that agreement."

Responding to a question on Siddaramaiah's statement in the Assembly that he would complete his five-year term as CM and there was no agreement on change of guard, Shivakumar said: "I have never said he (Siddaramaiah) won't be there for five years. I have also not said that the high command was not in his favour. He (Siddaramaiah) is the CM of the state because the high command is with him."

Asked if there will be a change of guard, he clarified that no such discussion is taking place in the party and all the controversy is in the realm of the media.

"I am touring several holy places in Uttara Kannada district praying for fulfilment of my desires and for the good of the state. Five years ago, when I had visited Jagadeeshwari Amma temple seeking fulfilment of my family wish, my prayers were answered by the Goddesses. I am returning from here with contentment," Shivakumar said.

Shivakumar had earlier in the day visited Gokarna, Murdeshwar and other holy places where he offered pujas.

I have never said he (Siddaramaiah) won't be there for five years.
Shivakumar

Next Union Budget likely on a Sunday

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The next Union Budget is likely to be presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on a Sunday, as February 1, the usual date for budget presentation, falls on the weekend.

Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said that while a final decision on the matter is pending, it is unlikely that the government will defer the date.

Since 2017, the Union Budget has been presented on February 1. Prior to that the Budget used to be presented on January 31.

While Parliament has been convened on Saturdays in the past, there are also a few precedents of the Budget being presented on a Sunday.

Details on Page 8

97 lakh voters in TN deleted from draft rolls after SIR

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Names of a whopping 97.37 lakh voters have been dropped in the draft electoral rolls at the end of the first phase of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Tamil Nadu. Of these, 66.4 lakh have shifted their residences, 26.9 lakh are dead and 3.98 lakh have enrolled at multiple places, according to the data released by the Chief Electoral Officer, Tamil Nadu.

As expected, women outnumbered men in the number of voters in the draft list as well, with 2.66 crore male voters and 2.77 crore women voters. The number of third gender voters is 7,191.

The total number of voters according to the draft rolls is 5,43,76,755 as against 6,41,14587 voters when the SIR began on November 4. Chennai recorded the highest drop of around 35%, with names of about 14.25 lakh voters not figuring in the draft electoral rolls. A total of 14,25,018 voter names have been removed from Chennai alone due to reasons such as death, relocation, duplication, and absence.

CEO Archana Patnaik said printed and digital booth-wise copies have been provided to all recognised political parties and made available on the official website.

Booth-wise lists of absent/shifted/death/duplicate electors whose names are not included in the draft roll, shall also be displayed on the notice board of respective local offices and also these lists will be published on DEO/CEO's website in an accessible format, the CEO added.

During the claims and objections period from December 19 to January 18, 2026, any elector or political party may file claims or objections for inclusion of electors or deletion of names. "A total of 234 EROs and 1,776 AEROs are in position to scrutinise such cases, as on 19.12.2025," the CEO said.

▸ SIR, Page 3A

73.73 lakh deleted from Gujarat rolls

The names of nearly 74 lakh voters have been dropped from Gujarat's draft electoral rolls after the completion of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise, pegging the total count of electors at 4.34 crore as against the 5.08 crore earlier, an official said on Friday. Page 5

New US defence law backs deeper ties with India

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, PTI: US President Donald Trump has signed into law an annual defence policy bill that highlights broadening America's engagement with India, including through the Quad to advance the shared objective of a free and open Indo-Pacific region and address the challenge posed by China.

The National Defence Authorisation Act for Fiscal Year 2026 was signed into law on Thursday.

The law also states that the Secretary of State shall establish and maintain within the US-India Strategic Security Dialogue a joint consultative mechanism with the Indian government in connection with the Nuclear Liability Rules.

Details on Page 10

CSR must also include 'environment responsibility': SC

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Friday stressed that the corporate definition of "social responsibility" must inherently include "environmental responsibility", as it announced directions to protect the critically endangered Great Indian Bustard (GIB).

The GIB is one of the heaviest flying birds in the world and a flagship species of the arid and semi-arid grasslands of the Indian subcontinent.

"Companies cannot assert to be socially responsible while ignoring equal claims of the environment and other beings of the ecosystem," a bench of Justices P S Narasimha and Atul S Chandurkar said.

The bench said the definition of "community" within the CSR framework has been expanded to explicitly include the natural world. "Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013 enumerates permissible CSR activities, specifically listing ensuring environmental sustainability, ecological balance, protection of flora and fauna, animal welfare, and conservation of natural resources," the court said.

By categorising ecological activities as social responsibility, the law acknowledges that as human beings, we cannot own or use environment for our purpose, it said. Corporate duty must evolve from merely protecting the shareholders to protecting the ecosystem.

▸ GIB, Page 3A

SET TO SOAR

Colourful kites on display for sale ahead of the upcoming 'Makar Sankranti' in Jaipur on Friday. PTI

SHOW TIME

Big stars battle it out for year-end dominance of Kannada screen

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Kannada film industry expects to end the year with a bang – two richly mounted films are slated for release on December 25.

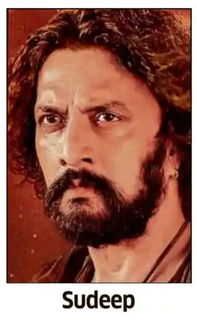
Mark, starring Sudeep, and 45, starring Shivarajkumar, Upendra and Raj B Shetty, have generated intense excitement among film buffs in a year Kannada films have done moderately well.

Mark comes in the wake of Max, also starring Sudeep and again directed by Vijay Karthikeyaa.

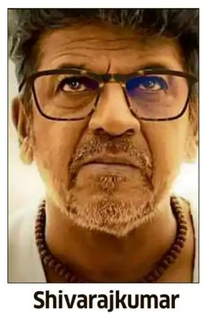
In Max, the first collaboration between the two, a policeman with razor-sharp instincts outwits the black sheep in the force. It was one of the highest grossers of 2024.

While Mark shows all the trappings of a massy sequel, 45 pitches itself as a "philosophical entertainer". The trailer is rich in VFX, created by a Canadian company, and the casting is unprecedented. All three heroes – Shivrajkumar, Upendra and Raj B Shetty – have delivered big hits, but this is the first time their paths are crossing on the big screen. While Shivarajkumar has defined 'mainstream', Upendra has time and time again surprised his audiences with maverick, iconoclastic narratives. Music composer Arjun Janya debuts as a director with 45, which he has also written.

All eyes are on Raj, who produced Su from So, a horror comedy that turned out to be a sleeper hit earlier this year. He played Karunakara guruji, a role that parodied new age gurus who thrive on TV appearances and choreographed swagger. Written and directed by J P Thuminad, Su from So drove home a point – good writing and savvy performances can sometimes achieve what huge budgets and big stars can't.



Sudeep



Shivarajkumar

The biggest hit of the year has been Rishab Shetty's Kantara A Legend Chapter 1. Released on October 2, it became one of India's highest grossing films of the year.

Dubbed into multiple languages, Chapter 1 was a prequel to the hit Kantara, released in 2023.

The 2025 film evoked a distant past with stellar performances and rich graphics.

It pitches simple forest dwellers against greedy royals out to cheat them of their hard-earned produce. The film had its share of controversy, drawing criticism for suggesting that folk deities are aligned to deities from an overarching Hindu pantheon.

Critically acclaimed films in the year include Naale Raja Koli Maja (dir Abhilash Shetty), Hebbuli Cut (dir Bheemarao P), and Green Girl (dir Sarthak Hegde).

This year, Kannada cinema lost the legendary actor B Saroja Devi. The Devil, starring Darshan, now in jail on a murder charge, cruised along comfortably.

Unfiltered: The story of a coffee mogul

A journalist tracks the life of V G Siddhartha, who gave India its first modern cafe chain

In 2019, the death of V G Siddhartha sent shock waves across the country. The founder of the iconic cafe chain, Cafe Coffee Day, had jumped into the Netravati river and taken his life.

The widely held belief was that the debt he had racked up to expand his business over the years had become insurmountable.

In this week's Saturday Story, a business journalist recounts meeting Siddhartha's mother Vasanthi Hegde, who still lives on one of their coffee estates in Chetanahalli. She also meets with a close friend of Siddartha's late father Gangaiah Hegde. From them, she learns about his childhood, his values and what shaped him in his early years.

The SATURDAY STORY

Full story, Page 13

Quickly

41 Maoists surrender in Telangana

Forty-one cadres, including six senior functionaries, of the CPI (Maoist) surrendered before the Telangana DGP on Friday, handing a major blow to the banned outfit. Police sources said internal dissatisfaction has been growing rapidly within CPI (Maoist) ranks as their leadership arbitrarily deployed cadres to unfamiliar areas.

Details on Page 8

Leopard enters residential area in Thane, injures 7

A leopard strayed into a densely populated residential area in the Mira-Bhayander suburbs of Mumbai on Friday morning and grievously injured seven people. It was tranquillised and taken away to a rescue centre a few hours later. The big cat entered a building complex located in Thane district. It is suspected that the feline strayed from the Sanjay Gandhi National Park or other protected areas.

Details on Page 5

Banu Mushtaq condemns Nitish's 'veil' act

International Booker Prize winner Banu Mushtaq on Friday said while she was against the practice of women covering their faces, the act of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar pulling the veil off the face of a woman was condemnable. Speaking at the Pune Literature Festival, she said the Bihar CM failed to uphold democratic values and his constitutional duty.

Details on Page 5

Jurisdiction: BDA to petition against RERA order

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has decided to challenge the Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority's (K-RERA) order rejecting the BDA's plea to stay outside its jurisdiction. Bengaluru Development Minister D K Shivakumar, in a written response to a question in the Assembly, said the BDA was preparing to file an appeal with the appellate tribunal of the K-RERA.

Details on Page 2

FIXES ONLY ON PAPER

While the GBA claims that 95% of the work was completed at the junction, no major improvements were seen at Arakere Junction. DH PHOTOS/ASRA MAVAD

At the Ballari Road-Kogilu Junction, construction material and debris are strewn due to ongoing Namma Metro construction. Due to debris on the roads, two-wheelers are prone to skidding amid heavy traffic.

Junction revamps fail reality check

Despite official claims, Bengaluru's Suraksha 75 junction upgrades show little on-ground change, exposing gaps between planning, execution, and accountability

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru's traffic junctions are where the city's rapid growth collides daily with outdated planning. From endless signal waits and chaotic merges to pedestrians stranded between lanes, these intersections reveal the stress points of an expanding metropolis.

As vehicle numbers soar and road space remains finite, poorly designed junctions amplify congestion, fuel wastage, and accident risk. Improving them is no longer about convenience alone—it is about safety, productivity, and quality of life. And rightly so, these junctions are currently a major point of focus for the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA).

Earlier this month, GBA Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao instructed officials to expedite the ongoing development works under the Suraksha 75 Junctions initiative across the GBA limits.

Status of junction works as per GBA

City Corporation	Work in progress	Work orders issued
South	8	2
Central	4	14
North	6	5
West	5	10
East	4	9

What is Suraksha 75?

An ambitious project launched by the erstwhile BBMP in 2023, Suraksha 75 is a road safety and junction-revamp initiative. Launched in the 2023–24 Karnataka budget, it targets the redesign and upgrading of 75 major traffic junctions to make them safer, more efficient and more accessible for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists.

Some of the features of the initiative include improved road geometry, safer pedestrian crossings, traffic-calming measures, better walkways and signage, and overall traffic congestion reduction. The project works with partners such as the World Resources Institute (WRI) India through global road safety programs. It is funded by a significant city budget allocation of approximately Rs 100 crore, which is likely to overshoot.

The notoriously crowded Tin Factory Junction remains congested due to the mismanagement of buses and autos near the bus bays.

Lost in translation

However, the project, which started slowly, remains stuck in the process of finalising geometry and design.

A progress report shared by the GBA in October stated that of the 28 junctions where the work is currently in progress, 90-95% of the work has been completed at the following locations: Arekere, Sarakki, Kudlu Gate, Hogasandra Metro Station, Manipal County (Hosur Road), Garebavipalya Temple in Bommanahalli, Tin Factory, Benniganahalli, KR Puram, and Ballari-Palanahalli Road. GBA data showed that only the improvements at the Horamavu bridge junction are 100% complete.

However, the reality on the ground did not match the data. A visit by *DH* to some of the aforementioned junctions, such as Arekere, Tin Factory, Yelahanka, and KR Puram, left one wondering what changes had been made under the initiative. Most junctions remained in poor condition, with haphazard traffic flow and limited pedestrian mobility.

The new City Corporation Commissioners have once again been instructed to conduct a field study and prepare a new progress report, a senior GBA official shared.

"We realised that a lot had been lost in translation — at first, when divisions within BBMP were moved about and then later when BBMP transitioned into GBA. With engineers and teams involved in Suraksha 75 constantly changing, we noticed that the progress report did not match the ground reality in many areas. Now each corporation is undertaking a reality check of what needs to be done within its jurisdiction," she told *DH*.

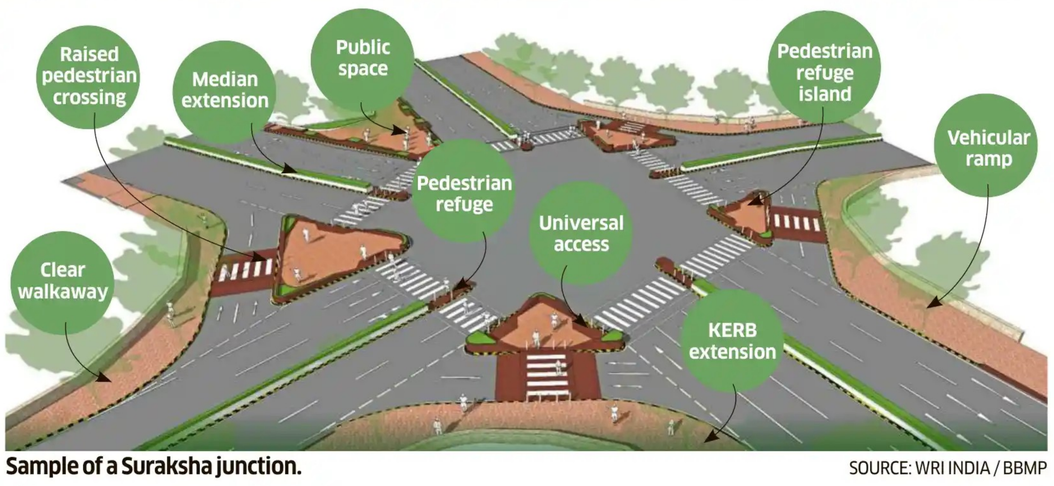
In Bengaluru East, the junctions currently in focus are Kundahalli, Tin Factory, KR Puram, and Marathahalli, among others, shared Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar, Additional Commissioner (Development), East City Corporation.

"We have also identified eight junctions on the Outer Ring Road (ORR) that need improvement. These are in the planning phase. We have already instructed our engineers and are in the process of appointing urban transport planners and designers. A tender has been floated for the roles. This is our top priority right now," he said.

Officials from North, West, Central, and South Corporations did not respond to *DH*'s calls.

Meanwhile, GBA Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao has set March 2026 as the deadline for completing the Suraksha 75 project.

"Each corporation is individually working on junctions in its jurisdiction, and we're guiding them along the way," he said, adding that some junction improvements will be implemented in Hebbal on a trial basis soon. He has asked the corporations to undertake continuous monitoring, conduct corporation-wise review meetings, and regularly submit progress reports.



Sample of a Suraksha junction. SOURCE: WRI INDIA / BBMP

Need for improvement

A common misconception among city planners and organisations involved in planning is that a junction can aid decongestion, believes V Ravichander, an urban expert based in Bengaluru.

"Fixing a junction will not improve the overall traffic situation in a locality. It will just shift the congestion from one point to another. Unless you address the overall traffic movement network, you won't find a solution. These changes need to be data-driven and scientific in nature," he said.

For ongoing junction improvement projects, he stresses the importance of providing a 'free left' wherever possible. "When you're cleaning up the road geometry, which is the most essential step of improving a junction, wherever possible, a free left must be provided. A two-lane road needs to be expanded to three lanes so the third lane can merge into the slip road and take the left lane. This will help improve traffic flow. For this, the authorities will need to do strategic land acquisition," he said, adding that equal importance needs to be given to pedestrian movement.

"The notion that the road belongs solely to motor vehicles is wrong. Skywalks are not the solution for pedestrian movement. They don't belong in most of the smaller roads where they're being built," he added.

Proper channelisation from all directions at the junction needs to be prioritised, according to Prof. Ashish Verma, the convenor of the IISc Sustainable Transport Lab.

"For this, all you need are simple, scientifically designed channelising islands. We've tried this at CNR Rao Circle, and it's been working great. It has not only improved traffic flow but also made it safer. Along with this, these also serve as refuge islands for pedestrians and cyclists," he said.

Feedback: pointblank@deccanherald.co.in

Suraksha 75 – Junctions chosen due to crashes and deaths

Name of the junction	Crashes (2022)	Deaths (2022)	Category
Byatarayanapura Junction	17	18	Black spot
Garebavipalya Temple	10	10	Black spot
Bagmane Tech Park Junction	12	12	Black spot
Hennur Cross	6	6	Black spot
Suranjan Das Road Junction – NGEF Signal	6	6	Black spot
Nagawara Junction	7	7	Black spot
Nayandahalli Junction	8	8	Black spot
Veeranapalya Bus Stop	7	7	Black spot
Sarjapur Signal, Next to Iblur Lake	5	5	Black spot
Marathahalli	7	7	Black spot
Tin Factory	7	7	Black spot
Summanahalli Junction	9	9	Black spot
Jalahalli Cross Road – Tumkur	9	9	Black spot
Ashwathnagar Bus Stop Junction (Dr. Rajgopal Road)	7	7	High risk
Mysore Sandal Soap Factory Junction	6	6	High risk
Yeshwanthpur Junction	4	4	High risk
KR Market	8	8	High risk
Devegowda Petrol Bunk	5	5	High risk
Bellary – Palanahalli Road	7	7	High risk
Hongasandra Metro Station Junction	5	5	High risk
Kudlu Gate City Bus Stop Junction	7	7	High risk
HSR Layout 27th Main Junction – Mahayogi Vemana Circle	8	8	High risk
KR Puram	6	6	High risk
Benniganahalli KR Puram Junction	4	4	High risk
Mahadevpura	6	6	High risk
Subramanya Swamy Temple	5	5	High risk
Gorguntepalya Junction	5	5	High risk
NICE Road Kengeri Road Junction	4	5	High risk
Nagasandra MS Junction	5	5	High risk
8th Mile Circle	10	10	High risk

METRO

Doctor molested while going home

BENGALURU, DHNS: An unidentified man inappropriately touched a doctor in north Bengaluru, police officials said on Friday. The incident occurred on December 17 between 12.40 am and 1 am near Chikkabanavara.

The FIR stated that the 28-year-old woman, from Odisha, was returning to her PG accommodation after completing her shift at the hospital. As she was walking, the suspect, riding a white scooter, stopped and got down from his vehicle.

"He asked me where the bus station was. Then, he began touching me and behaving inappropriately. I began screaming and the person fled on his vehicle," the woman told police.

She approached the Soladevanahalli police and lodged a complaint.

A case was registered under BNS Section 74 (assault or use of criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty).

BDA to file petition against RERA's refusal to exempt it from its jurisdiction

Order passed on a petition over delays in NPKL project

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has decided to challenge the Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority's (K-RERA) order, rejecting its plea to remain outside RERA jurisdiction.

DK Shivakumar

Bengaluru Development Minister DK Shivakumar, in a written response to a question raised in the ongoing Assembly session, said the BDA was preparing to file an appeal with the K-RERA appellate tribunal. He argued that the BDA is a statutory body functioning under the Bangalore Development Authority Act, 1976, and that there are significant financial constraints for the BDA to act under RERA norms.

The order was passed on a petition filed over the delay in developing the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout (NPKL).

According to BDA sources, officials felt they could abide by some norms, such as project registration and submission of progress reports. The major concern was compensation and penalties RERA could order in the event of project delays.

"The BDA projects are huge and there are thousands of sites allottees. In such a case, awarding compensation to the allottees becomes a huge financial burden," one of the sources said.

SURYAKIRAN
NPKL open forum

"It has been nine years since sites were allotted. We are already facing financial difficulties. Many of us, who took a loan thinking we could construct houses soon and move in, are now stuck paying both loan EMI and house rent.

However, site allottees said it was only fair that the BDA register and bear any compensation ordered since the authority's failure to provide basic infrastructure in the layout had burdened them.

"It has been nine years since sites were allotted. We are already facing financial difficulties. Many of us, who took a loan thinking we could construct houses soon and move in, are now stuck paying both loan EMI and house rent," said Suryakiran from the NPKL open forum.

Even after nine years, many sites in the layout do not have approach roads. Work at the layout has been progressing at a snail's pace, the allottees said.

The BDA, in its earlier argument, stated that it is a statutory authority, not a real estate promoter, and therefore, should be exempted from RERA regulations.

RERA, however, ruled that under Section 2(zk)(iii) of the RERA Act, any development authority or public body that constructs or develops land or buildings for sale to the public qualifies as a promoter.

Responding to the argument that the BDA would operate under the BDA Act, 1976, RERA said the RERA Act has an overriding effect on other laws.

BNP demands judiciary intervention to hold Bengaluru civic elections

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP) has urged the judiciary to take suo motu notice of the state government's failure to hold elections to the five corporations.

A statement from the outfit said the government has failed to notify ward reservations for the five newly formed city corporations, despite the Supreme Court–mandated deadline of December 15.

The BNP pointed out that the government was originally required to complete the ward reservation process by November 30, including the notification of reservations for SC, ST, OBC and women.

"After failing to meet this deadline, the state government filed an affidavit before the Supreme Court seeking an extension until December 15, stating that additional time was required to collate data from the social and educational survey.

Srikanth Narasimhan

"However, as of December 18, the deadline has passed with no notification issued, no explanation offered and no revised timeline announced," the BNP said in a statement.

Delay in elections effectively denies citizens their constitutional right to local self-governance, representatives from the BNP said.

Power grab

"Whether it was the BJP stalling the BBMP polls in the past, or the Congress now using the new 'GBA' system as an excuse to avoid elections, their goal is exactly the same: They want to keep all the power in the hands of MLAs and government officers. They don't want to be answerable to the residents of Bengaluru.

Public trust eroded

"It is time we stop letting them treat our city like their private property and demand our right to vote. Bengaluru cannot be governed indefinitely by unelected officials and that every further delay weakens democracy and erodes public trust," said Srikanth Narasimhan, founder and general secretary of BNP.

Student researchers from city NGO detect microplastics in salt samples

Tested quality after learning of Great Pacific Garbage Patch

ANURADHA DILEEP,
Student researcher

"Our study on microplastics in salt addressed a universal plastic pollution problem. As society fails to curb pollution, the issue worsens daily. The fact that plastic is entering our bodies and affecting health is alarming. I also gained a deeper understanding of food processing.

BENGALURU, DHNS

A group of high school students, guided by the city-based NGO Prayoga Institute of Education Research, tested salt quality in Bengaluru after learning of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.

A five-month study found microplastics in four out of seven salt samples tested.

The team collected seven varieties of commercially available salt — sea salt, rock salt and pink salt — from Bengaluru markets. Each sample was tested for microplastics using polarised microscopy.

"Four out of seven samples showed microplastic contamination through microscopic characterisation, confirmed chemically by Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy. Plastics detected included polyethylene, polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and polyethylene terephthalate (PET), all widely used in packaging," the research revealed.

Some samples also had high levels of total solids and fine nylon fibres, researchers said.

"Microplastics enter the human body in multiple ways and salt is one of them because it is sourced from the marine where microplastics are prevalent. Researchers at Prayoga trained students to identify microplastics using their unique birefringence property, which enabled clear and unambiguous detection in salt," said Prayoga director research and principal investigator KS Nagabhushana.

Plastic waste dumped into water bodies and seas breaks down into microplastics. These particles remain suspended in seawater and enter salt during evaporation. Fibres from textiles and industrial units discarded into oceans also reach the human body through salt.

"Our study on microplastics in salt addressed a universal plastic pollution problem. As society fails to curb pollution, the issue worsens daily. The fact that plastic is entering our bodies and affecting health is alarming. I also gained a deeper understanding of food processing," said Anuradha Dileep, a student researcher.

Relentless dumping of plastics led to the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, a vast accumulation of marine debris estimated at 1.8 trillion pieces of plastic.

The research was part of Anveshana, Prayoga's research-led flagship programme. It was supervised by Prayoga director research and principal investigator KS Nagabhushana and co-principal investigator Padmapriya, who guided four class 9 students: Varsha Vinay (NPS, Rajajinagar), Anarghya H Sastry (Goldenbee Global School), and Anuradha Dileep and Shreya Bharadwaj (Samvida).

IN THE CITY

GENERAL

Route march flag-off: MA Saleem, B Dayananda, Seemant Kumar Singh, M Babu; organised by Police Training School, Thanisandra; 8 am.

Job Fair for Persons with Disabilities by Assis Tech Foundation: Dr Sharanprakash Patil, Prateek Madhav, Krishnamurthy Ananthashivam to attend; BMS Women's College; 9 am.

Book release by Niruta Publications: CR Gopal's 'Dimensions of Upliftment Propounded in Dasa Literature' and 'A Bird's Eye View of Social Work'; Ashok R 'Manassu Munnudi, Ramesh B to attend; Dr Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University; 4 pm.

CULTURAL

Oonjal music festival by TTD: Rachana Sharma and troupe; TTD, Vyalikaval; 6 pm.

Bharatanatyam: Arangetram by Vidita N; Aarathi HN, RV Raghavendra to attend; Sharada Dance Centre; Chowdiah Memorial Hall; 6 pm.

Play: 'Maya Bhete', directed by Nanjundegowda C; organised by Odanadi Bandu CJKE 75, Drishya Kavya; Nani Angala; 6.30 pm.

Nudi Namana' to MS Umesh Karnataka Nataka Academy: Chindodi Bangaresh, Dingri Nagaraj, KV Nagarajamurthy; Monthly play 'Samsaaradalli Sanidapa' by Sirigeri's Dhaatri Ranga Samsthe; direction Mandya Ramesh; Kalagrama Complex; 6.30 pm.

Record seizure: Officials recover 30 mobiles at central prison

BENGALURU, DHNS: Parappana Agrahara Central Prison officials seized about 30 mobile phones in a single night on Thursday, in what is said to be the largest haul of its kind in the prison's history.

"In the largest haul in the history of Parappana Agrahara prison, Bengaluru, 30 mobile phones were seized in late last night operation. Appreciate the good work done by SP Anshu Kumar and Jailer Shivakumar, who led the search team," Alok Kumar, Director General of Police (Prisons and Correctional Services), posted on X on Friday.

The newly appointed DGP also announced a Rs 30,000 reward for the search team.

"Our search operations against contraband items inside prisons premises continues across the state. In last 36 hours, 10 mobile phones & 4 Sims at Kalaburgi, 6 phones at Mangalore, 4 phones at Ballari, 3 phones & 4 Sims seized at Shivamogga prisons. This drive will continue," posted the top cop.

A statement said 10 FIRs were registered over the use of prohibited goods inside the Bengaluru prison from November 11 to date.

Between November 26 and December 19, officials seized 101 mobile phones, 23 chargers, 84 SIM cards, 16 earphones, Rs 64,880 in cash, 18 sharp objects, two packs of cigarettes, and 60 grams of prohibited substances.

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CITY WEATHER

FORECAST
Mist

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	26.5°C
Minimum	15.4°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	44%
Sunset (Dec 20)	5:57 pm
Sunrise (Dec 21)	6:36 am
Moonrise	5:52 am
Moonset	5:19 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Man arrested for kicking five-year-old playing on road

BENGALURU, DHNS: Banashankari police in south Bengaluru have arrested a man accused of kicking a five-year-old child playing on a road in TR Nagara.

The 35-year-old accused, Ranjan M, a gym trainer and resident of TR Nagara, was arrested in connection with the incident, which occurred on December 14 between 1 pm and 1.10 pm.

According to the FIR, Ranjan kicked the child, who was playing outside a house with a few other children.

The child's mother, the complainant, told police that the accused lived in a neighbouring house and that the assault caused injuries to her son's eye and there were scratches on his limbs.

The complainant and her son, residents of Doddamavalli, were visiting her brother in TR Nagara at the time.

The incident was captured on a CCTV camera installed at a nearby house. The footage shows the accused running towards the child, kicking him, and walking away.

Banashankari police initially registered a non-cognizable report and, on December 15, filed an FIR under BNS Section 115 (voluntarily causing hurt) after obtaining court permission.

The accused was later arrested.

"Preliminary probe has revealed that three months ago, the accused met with a self-accident and has since been receiving treatment for mental health issues. He is currently under observation at a hospital in Madurai. Officers are in contact with the hospital authorities," said Babasab Nemagoud, Deputy Commissioner of Police (North), in charge of the South Division.

"It is also learnt that there were three other similar instances involving the accused. I have directed officers to contact them, take complaints and conduct the investigation," the DCP added.

Two killed as car plunges into drain near Chikkajala

BENGALURU, DHNS: Two young men were killed and another was critically injured in the early hours of Friday. Their speeding car veered off the road and plunged into a drain near Sadahalli Gate in Chikkajala.

The deceased are Shahid Ahmed (22), a call centre employee and resident of RT Nagar, and Abdul Rehman (24), a resident of JC Nagar. A third occupant, who sustained severe injuries, is being treated at a private hospital.

According to police, the three friends had gone out for dinner late Thursday night. The accident occurred around 2 am on Friday while they were heading towards the Chikkajala signal from Sadahalli.

Ahmed, who was behind the wheel, was driving at high speed.

"The driver lost control of the vehicle due to high speed. The car crashed into a barrier with significant impact before flipping into a deep drain," a senior traffic police officer said.

The impact was so severe that two occupants who died on the spot were trapped inside the mangled remains of the car.

The recovery operation required a JCB and crane to lift the vehicle out of the ditch. Police personnel struggled to extricate the bodies from the wreckage. The deceased were shifted to a hospital for post-mortem.

The Chikkajala traffic police have registered a case of accidental death and rash and negligent driving. "Preliminary investigations and condition of the wreckage suggest that reckless driving and over-speeding were the primary causes of the accident," police said.

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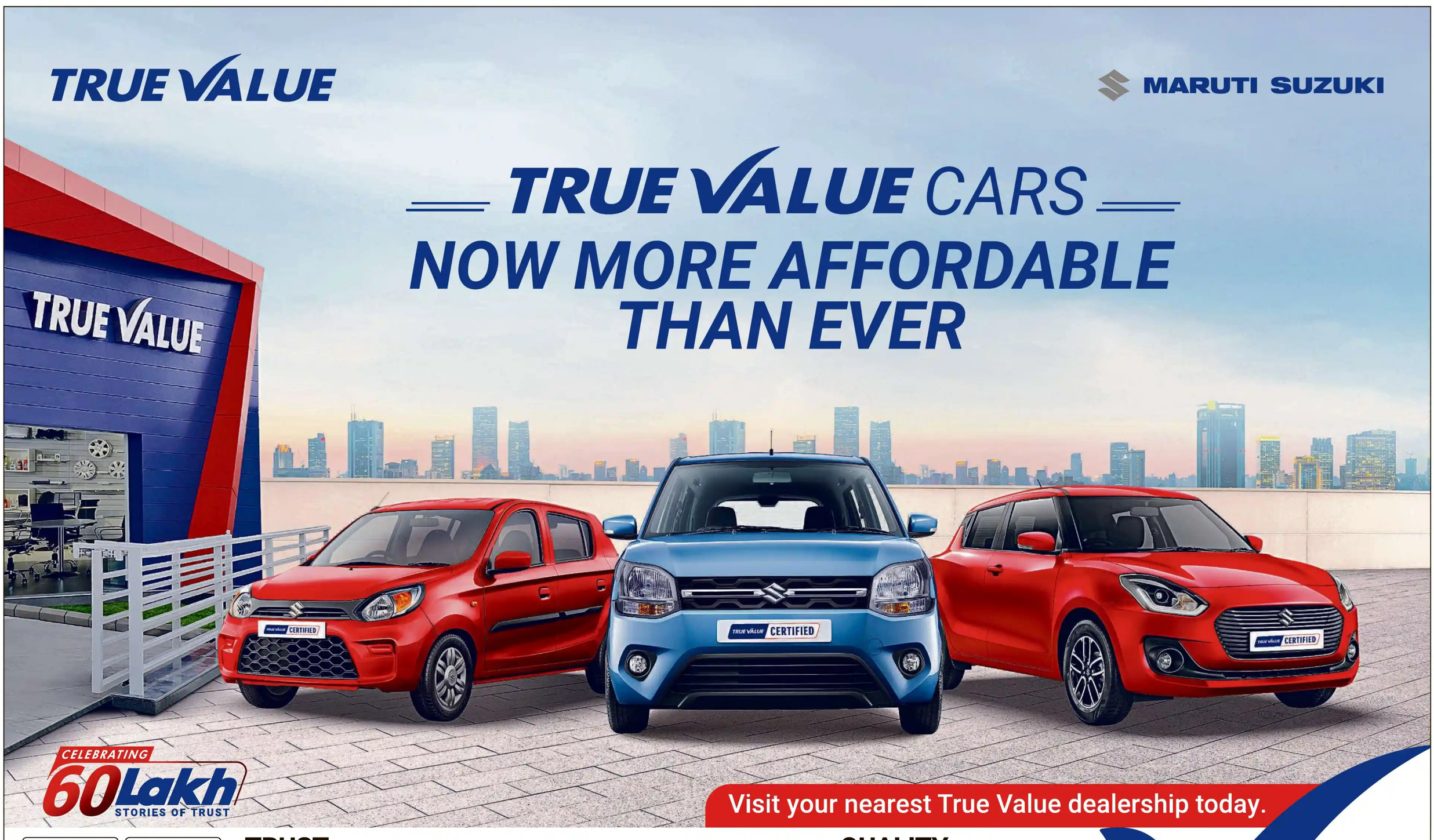

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Valmiki scam: ED attaches Rs 8.07 cr assets of ex-minister Nagendra

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday said that it has provisionally attached properties worth Rs 8.07 crore belonging to former minister B Nagendra in connection with the alleged scam in the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation (KMVSTDCL).

"ED has provisionally attached four immovable properties, including residential/commercial land and building worth Rs 8.07 crore (approx), belonging to B Nagendra, former minister, under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)," the agency said in a statement.

Earlier, search operations were conducted under the provisions of PMLA, 2002, at various locations across Karnataka and other states. Further, six persons, including Nagendra, were arrested. Thereafter, a prosecution complaint (charge sheet) was filed before the principal city civil and sessions judge, Bengaluru, in 2024 against 25 accused persons/entities, including Nagendra.

"All efforts were taken to trace the Proceeds of Crime (PoC) generated by B Nagendra. However, the remaining PoC could not be traced, and it appears that the same has been either exhausted or concealed by B Nagendra. Therefore, ED is constrained to attach an equivalent value of PoC in the form of such properties which otherwise may frustrate the further proceedings under PMLA, 2002. In view of the above, four immovable properties worth Rs 8.07 crore (approx.), belonging to B Nagendra were attached as value thereof i.e. as equivalent value of the PoC. Further investigation is under progress," the agency said.

Long-term perspective adopted for 2nd airport in B'luru: Minister

Conditions relaxed in several cities, says M B Patil

BENGALURU, DHNS

Infrastructure Development Minister M B Patil said that the government has started working towards the city's second international airport, adopting a long-term perspective.

He said the matter of the proposed greenfield airport was raised during the recent session of the parliament and the state government is aware that permission from Bengaluru International Airport Limited (BIAL) is required to construct a second international airport near the state capital. The relevant conditions are valid until 2033, he noted.

Adopting a long-term perspective, the government has initiated preparatory work well in advance, he said.

At the time of commissioning Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), a condition was imposed prohibiting the development of another airport within a 150-km radius until 2033. However, similar conditions have been relaxed in cities, such as New Delhi and Navi Mumbai, to facilitate the development of second airports. This matter will be addressed appropriately at the appropriate time, he said.

Patil explained that several critical steps are involved in establishing an airport, including site identification, inspections, land acquisition and disbursement of compensation.

Completing these processes alone would take at least five to six years. Approval from BIAL would be required only after these stages are completed, he clarified.

Patil said tenders have been invited through the Karnataka State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (KSIIDC) to prepare a location suitability report along with a comprehensive technical and financial feasibility study.

He said a period of five months will be provided for submission of the report to the government.

While preparing the report, factors, such as passenger density, potential for industrial and tourism growth, infrastructure availability, geographical features, rainfall patterns, sewerage, noise pollution and waste management, will be taken into consideration, he said.

The minister said a high-level team from the Airports Authority of India inspected the sites at Choodahalli and Somanahalli on Kanakapura Road, as well as another location on the Nelamangala–Kunigal Road, and submitted a report to the government. Based on this assessment, the tenders have now been invited, Patil added.

M B PATIL
Infrastructure Minister

"At the time of commissioning Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), a condition was imposed prohibiting the development of another airport within a 150-km radius until 2033. However, similar conditions have been relaxed in cities, such as New Delhi and Navi Mumbai, to facilitate the development of second airports. This matter will be addressed appropriately at the appropriate time.

Bhumika Club gathering for women today

BENGALURU, DHNS

The 14th Bengaluru edition of Freedom Healthy Cooking Oils presents Bhumika—Powered by Manipal Hospitals is coming up on Saturday. The Club is an initiative by *Deccan Herald* and *Prajavani*, and aims to provide women a platform to engage with and network among one another.

Dr Poonam Patil, a consultant in Medical Oncology, Immunotherapy, and Precision Medicine at Manipal Hospitals, will headline the event with a talk on health and wellness. Performances will feature a Bharatanatyam recital by the students of the Padmini Priya Nruthya Kala Academy, a music concert by Anagha M, and a standup comedy set by Varshini. Chandana Lakshmikanth will lead a Zumba session.

A cookery contest and an opportunity for networking will follow.

Various contests will be held for the audience, where one lucky contestant will win a water purifier worth Rs 15,000, and another will get two VVIP passes to the Prajavani Cine Sammaana Awards 2026. Ten other winners will walk away with free couples' movie tickets at a multiplex.On December 20, 4 pm, at Indiranagar Club, HAL 2nd Stage. Entry free. To register, call 9035036186 .

To register, call 9035036186 or scan the QR code.

Gold smuggling case: HC rejects plea challenging Ranya Rao's detention

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka high court on Friday dismissed the habeas corpus petition filed by H P Rohini, mother of actor Ranya Rao, challenging the preventive detention of her daughter under the provisions of Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act (COFEPOSA).

Ranya Rao

A division bench comprising Justices Anu Sivaraman and Vijayakumar A Patil rejected the petition filed by Rohini. The order copy is yet to be uploaded.

Ranya Rao was arrested on March 3, 2025, caught smuggling 14.2 kg gold at Kempegowda International Airport. On April 22, the preventive detention order was passed against her by invoking COFEPOSA.

In her petition, Rohini had contended that the authorities have not followed the due process of law while taking her daughter under preventive detention. The authorities, on the other hand, argued that the actor was working for a syndicate involved in gold smuggling and such activity was not an one-off incident.

Murder case: HC quashes KCOCA against BJP lawmaker

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka High Court on Friday quashed the order permitting the invocation of the provisions of the Karnataka Control of Organised Crime Act (KCOCA) against B A Basavaraja, BJP MLA from KR Puram constituency, in the Shivaprakash murder case. Basavaraja is accused number 5 in the case. Meanwhile, the court rejected anticipatory bail application filed by him.

Byrathi Basavaraja has filed two petitions, one challenging the order invoking the provisions of KCOCA and another challenging the FIR registered against him in the murder case. Basavaraja withdrew the petition challenging the FIR.

In the petition challenging the provisions of KCOCA, Justice S Sunil Dutt Yadav said that the charge sheets are required to establish a continued link regarding the nature of offences to interpret the term 'continuing unlawful activity' under the KCOCA. The court noted that though in the case at hand, the order of prior approval seeks to make out a case of unlawful activity committed in relation to a real estate transaction, prima facie, the gist of the investigation mentioned in the order does not reflect the offence in relation to real estate. While the use of criminal force and causing harm may be common in both, the 'continuing unlawful activity' with the object of real estate pecuniary advantage as indicated in the order of approval is absent, the court said.

In the application for anticipatory bail, court observed that custodial interrogation is a legal option available to investigating agency and there is no reason to deny such exercise of power. "Further, the material would indicate that the deceased, in writing, stated that the henchmen of the petitioner threatened him. In light of the same, the court is not inclined to exercise the extraordinary power under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, particularly in light of the factual matrix referred to above," the court said.

Bhadra Project not a centrally sponsored scheme, LS told

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti Raj Bhushan Choudhary informed the Lok Sabha on Friday that the Central financial assistance is not released to the Upper Bhadra Project as it is not included under any centrally sponsored scheme.

"The Upper Bhadra Project, with an estimated cost of Rs 16,125.48 crore at the 2018–19 price level, was appraised in the Public Investment Board (PIB) meeting held on Oct 12, 2022. Presently, a revised proposal with updated cost (at the 2024–25 price level) and Benefit–Cost (BC) ratio of the Upper Bhadra Project has been submitted to the Central Water Commission under the Ministry of Jal Shakti. The Upper Bhadra Project is presently not included under any scheme of the Government of India, hence no central assistance has been released to the project so far," the minister replied to Bellary MP E Tukaram's question.

Choudhary also said that the project is being implemented by the Government of Karnataka undertaking Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Limited. The reported expenditure in the project till October-2025 is Rs 11,051 crore.

Raj Bhushan Choudhary

As informed by the state, the stage I works (lift works) of the project for lifting water from Bhadra Reservoir to Ajjampura tunnel are complete, while the works for lifting water from the Tunga River to Bhadra Reservoir are underway. The stage II works, comprising canals, feeders, tank filling and drip irrigation components, are reported by the state to be at various stages of implementation, he said.

In the Union Budget 2023-24, the Centre announced the Rs 5,300 crore grants to take up a drip irrigation project under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) in the Upper Bhadra Project. However, the funds have not been released so far. The state government has been demanding that the Centre release funds early to take up agriculture activities in the perennial drought-hit areas of the Chitradurga region.

The Upper Bhadra project has been pending to take off for for the past five decades, and it was planned to irrigate 2.25 lakh hectares spread over four districts - Chitradurga, Davangere, Tumakuru and Chikkamagaluru. The scheme also proposes to fill up more than 350 tanks in the drought-hit region.

97 lakh voters in TN deleted...

SIR, from Page 1

"No name can be deleted from the draft roll published on December 16 without notice and a speaking order by the ERO/AERO. Any aggrieved elector may appeal to the district magistrate and thereafter to the Chief Electoral Officer under Section 24 of the RP Act, 1950," the CEO added.

Officials and party BLAs said most of the people whose names did not figure in the draft rolls due to shifting are likely to enrol as voters by January by either filing petitions or getting enrolled as fresh voters. The CEO said special camps will also be held to enrol fresh voters during the period.

Opposition Leader Edappadi K Palaniswami welcomed the "deletion" of the names saying the AIADMK has been supporting the SIR exercise since the beginning as it knew that the DMK was gaining due to "fake voters". Though the DMK did not issue any official statement, it said it was prepared for the exercise by asking its BLAs to scrutinise the draft rolls and take steps to include names of people who have been left out.

Tension grips Bangladesh after uprising leader's death

Bangladesh, from Page 1

The police recovered the body and sent it to the Mymensingh Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Earlier on Thursday, soon after Yunus' announcement, protesters took to the streets and attacked offices of leading newspapers.

The National Citizen Party (NCP), a large offshoot of Students Against Discrimination (SAD) that led the July Uprising, which ousted the Hasina-led government, joined a mourning procession on the Dhaka University campus.

Supporters of the group chanted anti-India slogans alleging that Hadi's assailants fled to India after committing the murder.

They called upon the interim government to close the Indian High Commission until they were returned.

Protesters also hurled bricks and stones at the residence of the Assistant Indian High Commissioner in Chattogram at 1.30 am, but failed to cause any damage.

Police responded with tear gas and baton charges, dispersing the crowd and detaining 12 protesters. A few injuries were also reported.

Senior officials assured the assistant high commissioner of enhanced security.

In Dhaka, protesters attacked the office of a leading cultural group, Chhayanaut, and brought out the furniture, setting it on fire.

Sporadic violence was also reported from other parts of the country overnight.

Council sits for 11 hours without lunch break

BELAGAVI, DHNS: The Legislative Council sat for 11 hours except a minor adjournment, and skipped lunch break on Friday, the last day of the Winter Session.

Though a few BJP members sought a lunch break when discussion on the Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill was in progress, the Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti wanted to complete procedures.

The session continued even after the bill was passed. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had to wait for almost an hour to give the government's answer for the debate on North Karnataka issues.

High command in my favour: CM in Assembly

Siddu, from Page 1

Kumar said he wanted Siddaramaiah to remain CM and implement his assurances to North Karnataka. "Yes, I will be there," Siddaramaiah said.

This signalled Siddaramaiah's intention to stay on amid speculation that his deputy D K Shivakumar is waiting for his turn. Also, these statements came on the last day of the Belagavi session of the legislature, after which both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar may be called for talks with the Congress' top brass to discuss their leadership tussle.

Earlier in the day, Siddaramaiah told the Assembly that he could not reply on the North Karnataka debate sooner as he was feeling physically frail.

"The way you are speaking, you are not frail physically or politically," Kumar said. To this, Siddaramaiah said: "I have some frailty physically. But there is no political weakness."

CSR must also include...

GIB, From Page 1

Stating that the corporate definition of "social responsibility" must inherently include "environmental responsibility", the top court said companies cannot assert to be socially responsible while ignoring equal claims of the environment and other beings of the ecosystem.

"Where corporate activities such as mining, power generation, or infrastructure threaten the habitat of endangered species, the 'Polluter Pays' principle mandates that the company bears the cost of species recovery. CSR funds must, therefore, be directed towards ex-situ and in-situ conservation efforts to prevent extinction," the court said.

In its judgment on a 2019 writ petition filed by M K Ranjitsinh and others, the court noted the issues in the instant case aptly demonstrated the contestation between the goals of preserving historically and ecologically significant species and green energy generation to address climate change. The instant plea arose out of two orders passed by the court in 2021 and 2024.

The court had earlier restricted overhead transmission lines across nearly 99,000 sq km in Rajasthan and Gujarat. Upon the Centre's concern over implications for India's renewable energy transition, the court had constituted an expert committee to recommend balanced measures.

Among its directions, the bench said, the revised priority area for Rajasthan, as recommended by the committee, would be 14,013 sq kms, while for Gujarat it would be 740 sq kms.

The court also said the measures recommended by the committee for in-situ and ex-situ conservation of GIB within the priority areas of Rajasthan and Gujarat would be implemented forthwith.

It ordered that even with respect to non-priority areas, all future power lines should run through power line corridors. Moreover, all existing and future lines must be marked with bird flight diverters; no new overhead power lines should be drawn except through dedicated power corridors (except 11kV and below capacities) and no new wind turbines should be allowed in the revised priority area. The court also directed that new solar parks/plants with a capacity exceeding 2 MW and the expansion of existing solar parks should not be permitted within the revised priority areas.

ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ–ಹರಿಹರ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ. ದೇವರಾಜ ಅರಸು ಬಡಾವಣೆ, 'ಎ' ಬ್ಲಾಕ್, ಪಿ.ಬಿ.ರಸ್ತೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ–06

ನಂ:ದಾಹನಪ್ರಾ:ತಾಶಾ:ಎಇಇ:ಕಸಾಸಂಪೋ:ಟೆಂಪ್ರ:13:2025–26/2950 ದಿನಾಂಕ:19–12–2025.

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್)

ಆಯುಕ್ತರು, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ–ಹರಿಹರ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಆದೇಶಗಳ ಅನ್ವಯ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿರುವ 100.00 ಕೋಟಿ ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ನಿಶ್ಚಿತ ಠೇವಣಿ ಮಾಡಲು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ನಿಧಿ ಹೆಸರು	ಖಾತೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ನಿಶ್ಚಿತ ಠೇವಣಿಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೊತ್ತ	ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ
1.	FUND-I General Administration & Master Plan.	89320100005667	1x ರೂ.15.00 ಕೋಟಿ= ರೂ.15.00 ಕೋಟಿ	ರೂ.15.00 ಕೋಟಿ
2.	FUND-II Lake Rejuvenation.	89320100005668	1x ರೂ.11.00 ಕೋಟಿ= ರೂ.11.00 ಕೋಟಿ	ರೂ.11.00 ಕೋಟಿ
3.	FUND-III Fees Collected in Lieu of Park & Open Space.	89320100005669	1x ರೂ.10.00 ಕೋಟಿ= ರೂ.10.00 ಕೋಟಿ	ರೂ.10.00 ಕೋಟಿ
4.	FUND-V Development Fund-I.	89320100005671	1x ರೂ.62.00 ಕೋಟಿ= ರೂ.62.00 ಕೋಟಿ	ರೂ.62.00 ಕೋಟಿ
5.	FUND-VI Development Fund-II.	89320100005672	1x ರೂ.2.00 ಕೋಟಿ= ರೂ.2.00 ಕೋಟಿ	ರೂ.2.00 ಕೋಟಿ
				ರೂ.100.00 ಕೋಟಿ

(1) Date of e-Auction Notification 19-12-2025 **(2)** Pre-bid Meeting at DHUDA office 23-12-2025 at 11.00 Hrs **(3)** Last Date to upload the Eligibility Criteria in Annexure-A & Declaration in Annexure-B in the e-portal 29-12-2025 on or before 16.00 Hrs **(4)** Live Bidding 01-01-2026 to 09-01-2026. **(5)** Date of Investment 19-01-2026 Onwards

ನಿಶ್ಚಿತ ಠೇವಣಿ ಸಂಬಂಧವಾಗಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳು (Conditions)ನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸುವುದು.

(1) ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಕೃತ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್‌ಗಳು ಮಾತ್ರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಅವಕಾಶವಿರುತ್ತದೆ. (2) ಎಫ್.ಡಿ ಖಾತೆಯನ್ನು ಮಾತ್ರವೆ ತೆರೆಯಬೇಕು ಮತ್ತು ಎಸ್.ಬಿ ಖಾತೆಗೆ ಅವಕಾಶ ಇರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. (3) ಎಫ್.ಡಿ ಅವಧಿ 365 ದಿನಗಳಿಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರವೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ. (4) 365 ದಿನಗಳ ಕಾಲಾವಧಿ ಮುಗಿದ ನಂತರ ಈ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡಂತೆ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಆಫ್ ಬರೋಡ, ಪಿ.ಬಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಇವರಿಗೆ ಬಡ್ಡಿ ಸಮೇತ ಆಯಾ–ಆಯಾ ಖಾತೆಗೆ ತಕ್ಷಣವೇ ವರ್ಗಾವಣೆ ಮಾಡತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. IFSC Code. BARB0VJDAVA (fifth letter is ZERO) (5) ಎಫ್.ಡಿ ಬಾಂಡಗಳನ್ನು ತಕ್ಷಣವೇ ನೀಡುವುದು. (6) ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಗಳು ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ ಎಫ್.ಡಿ ಫಾಸ್ ಶೀಟ್‌ನ್ನು ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ ಮತ್ತು ಹಾರ್ಡ್ ಕಾಪಿಯನ್ನು ತಕ್ಷಣವೇ ನೀಡುವುದು. (7) ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರವು ತೀರಾ ಅಗತ್ಯ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಅವಧಿ ಪೂರ್ವ ಠೇವಣಿಗಳನ್ನು ಹಿಂಪಡೆಯುವ ಷರತ್ತಿಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟಿದೆ. (8) Callable F.D. Tender. (9) ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ–ಹರಿಹರ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರವು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಅಂಗೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಥವಾ ತಿಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿವಿಜಿ/568/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26 ಸಹಿ/– **ಆಯುಕ್ತರು, ದಾ–ಹ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.**

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Reg. Office: 30/1, 1st and 2nd Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Millers Tank Bund Area, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru- 560051. Email-Id: dgm3bswml@gmail.com

No: DGM-3/BSWML/PR /723/2025-26 Date: 19.12.2025

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
(Only through GOK KPP Portal Only)

Name of the Work :

Setting up and operation & maintenance of 500 TPD wet waste biological processing plant for a period of two (2) years on service model.

(1) Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited invites EOI from the eligible firms for the work of "Setting up and operation & maintenance of 500 tpd wet waste biological processing plant for a period of two (2)years on service model"
(2) This EOI is invited only for obtaining the best technologies for setting up of wet waste biological processing unit
(3) The details of the EOI can be downloaded from the Government of Karnataka Public Procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
(4) Last date (deadline) to receive the response is: **05.01.2026 upto 4.00 PM** through KPPP portal
(5) Date of opening of responses is **06.01.2026 after 4.30 PM** through KPPP portal
(6) The Right to Accept/Reject an any or all responses received is reserved with the Deputy General Manager-3, BSWML without assigning any reasons thereof.

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-3, BSWML

DIPR/CP/4560/SHIRDI SAI/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
GOVT. AYURVEDA MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL
New Sayyaji rao road, Vishveshwaraiah Circle, Mysore-570001
Tel No:0821-2443701, 0821-2442205, Fax No.: 0821-2443701,
E-mail ID:gamcmysore@gmail.com

No/GAH/11/SUP/2025-26 Date:18.12.2025

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION:SECOND CALL

E-Tender is invited in two cover system through e tender as per K.T.P.P. Act 1999. Rules 2000 from eligible tenderers and accredited firms- organisations for availing services for various Bus Drive & Group-D posts for one year at Government Ayurveda Medical College and Hospital, Mysore. For the tender Forms, regarding Terms/ Conditions of the tender and for further information visit website: http.www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

E-Tender Schedule

1. Tender Notice No: GAMH/11/ Sup/2025-26, Date: 18-12-2025, at 5.00 P M
2. Approx. amount of Tender Rs. 195.00 lakh
3. E.M.D. Amount (1.5%) Rs. 2,92,500/- To be paid through e- procurement.
4. Last Date for submission of Tender: 01-01-2026 up to 5.00 P.M.

Sd/-
Principal/Chairman,
Tender Inviting Authority
Govt, Ayurvedic Medical College and Hospita, Mysore-570001

DIPR/MYSORE/1389/ShirdiSai/2025-26

Metro MD, officials inspect Pink Line amid delays

BENGALURU, DHNS

Days after public sector undertaking BEML rolled out a prototype train for Namma Metro's Pink Line, senior officials of the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL) inspected the depot as well as the elevated and underground sections between Kalena Agrahara and Nagawara to expedite ongoing civil, electrical and signalling works.

J Ravishankar, Managing Director of BMRCL, reviewed the Pink Line with senior officers by visiting the Kothanur depot, underground metro stations between MG Road and Shivajinagar, and Tannery Road–Venkateshpura.

He did not share information about the progress of work at the underground and elevated stations with the media.

Namma Metro has drawn criticism from the public for poor performance on all fronts, especially as the commute experience along Bannerghatta Road has worsened in recent years due to increased traffic and poor road conditions.

The Pink Line, where civil work is nearing completion, now faces a shortage of trains, with Namma Metro likely to begin full-fledged operations only in mid-2026.

Commuters faced a similar problem on the Yellow Line (RV Road to Bommasandra), which was ready, but had no trains for several months.

Yellow Line metro services to start an hour late tomorrow

BENGALURU, DHNS: Train services on the Yellow Line of the Bengaluru Metro will commence an hour later than usual on Sunday, due to urgent systems maintenance and upgradation work, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) announced on Friday.

According to the BMRCL, the first train on the Yellow Line will depart at 8 am instead of the regular 7 am. Services will resume as per the normal Sunday schedule thereafter.

The delayed start is applicable only for Sunday and will affect only the Yellow Line. Metro services on the Purple and Green lines will operate as usual, officials clarified.

The BMRCL said the maintenance work is being undertaken to optimise operations and has advised commuters to plan their travel accordingly.

KRS workers attacked while checking rice smuggling

BENGALURU, DHNS: Workers of the Karnataka Rashtra Samithi (KRS) were allegedly attacked while attempting to check illegal smuggling of rice distributed under the state government's Anna Bhagya scheme.

According to an FIR registered on December 18, the incident occurred on December 17 between 7.30 pm and 11.55 pm.

The case was registered based on a complaint filed by Syed Parveez, a KRS party worker from JP Nagar.

In his complaint, Parveez alleged that KRS workers were attacked near Yelachenahalli when they went to inspect the suspected offence and informed the police.

Parveez further claimed that Aleem, a Congress party worker, was involved in the incident, as stated in the FIR.

The FIR has named Aleem, Fayaz, Nayaz, and Sohel as the accused. A police official said an investigation is underway.

Free palliative care centre to open on Sunday

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Nemmadi Centre for Palliative Care, a free-of-cost facility with 55 beds for terminally ill patients, will be inaugurated on Sunday. The centre is a collaborative initiative of the Sukruthi Charitable Trust and Rotary Bangalore Midtown, and is located near Nelamangala.

An investment of Rs 20 crore has gone into establishing the centre, which will operate without a billing counter. It will offer integrated palliative care services and provide support to patients' families through counselling and bereavement care.

"A cornerstone of the project was the generous donation of land by former MLC E Krishnappa, which made the centre possible," said Palani Loganathan.

The inauguration ceremony will be attended by Madhusudan Sai, founder of the Sri Madhusudan Sai Global Humanitarian Mission. He will be joined by Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao; Member of Parliament Dr CN Manjunath, who is also chief medical advisor to Nemmadi; along with other senior government officials and healthcare leaders.

Experts: Early intervention vital for disabled children

BENGALURU, DHNS: Experts at a disability awareness programme called for early intervention in neurological disabilities to help children thrive and build a more inclusive society.

At the session hosted by the Department of Pediatrics of Vani Vilas Hospital, health experts stressed the need to train mothers, as they are the primary caregivers, to help children function better.

Dr Sridhar Ryavanki, health specialist, UNICEF, said, "The cities are not disabled-friendly. Only when the cities are designed for children and people with disabilities, can we become a developed nation."

The experts noted that neurological disabilities often do not receive adequate attention as they are not visibly physical in nature.

VS Basavaraj, former Disability Commissioner for Karnataka, said, "We equip mothers in rural areas with the knowledge of managing the children with disabilities and bring them into mainstream society."

Savitha Devi, Secretary of the Disability NGOs Alliance, said there was a lack of coordination between doctors and rehabilitation centres that provide therapy to children with neurological disabilities.

Doctors at the programme said persons with neurodisability are capable of achieving at par with others, if supported early and appropriately.

SV Narayanaswamy Rao birth centenary valedictory celebrations

BENGALURU, DHNS: Celebrating a century of cultural legacy, the Sree Ramaseva Mandali Trust is set to conclude the birth centenary of its founder, S V Narayanaswamy Rao, with a grand valedictory ceremony on Sunday.

The event, which marks his 101st birth anniversary, will be held at the SVN Memorial Hall in Nettigere, off Kanakapura Road.

A life dedicated to art

Founded in 1939 by a then 14-year-old Rao, the Mandali began on a Chamarajpet footpath and grew into a "Temple of Music." Rao, a visionary Kalaa Poshaka (patron of art), became synonymous with the iconic month-long Ramanavami concerts at the Fort High School grounds, bridging the gap between sacred tradition and classical performance.

The highlight of the valedictory function will be the presentation of the prestigious "S V Narayanaswamy Rao Birth Centenary Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award." The trust will honour nine luminaries who have rendered exceptional service to the fields of Indian classical music and culture. The ceremony starts at 9.30 am and will draw connoisseurs and students of Karnatak music from across the city.

Train stoppages till June

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Solapur–Hassan Daily Express (train number 11311/11312) will have a stoppage at Nelamangala for six more months.

Train number 11311 will arrive at Nelamangala at 7.39 am and depart at 7.40 am till June 15. Train number 11312 will arrive at Nelamangala at 5.59 pm and depart at 6.01 pm till June 16.

Similarly, the railways has extended the experimental stoppage of train number 16579/16580 (Yeshwantpur–Shivamogga Town–Yeshwantpur Intercity Daily Express) at Chikkabanavara until March 31.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING
Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi-110016

NCERT DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS- 2025

Applications are invited for the award of NCERT Doctoral Fellowships in the field of Education and other disciplines directly related to education. The last date for the receipt of application is 30 days from the date of advertisement in the newspaper. For detailed information about eligibility, procedure etc., Please visit NCERT's website www.ncert.nic.in.

Note: There are total ten fellowships out of which 4 fellowships are reserved for Regional Institutions of Education (RIEs) one each for Ajmer, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar and Mysore (if found suitable)

CBC 21104/12/0010/2526

Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe)
Department of Space, Government of India

Engagement of Young Professional Under IN-SPACe Young Professional Scheme.
(ADVT. NO. IN-SPACe: 07:2025 Dated 20/12/2025)

IN-SPACe is an independent Nodal agency under Department of Space (DOS) for promotion and authorization of Space activities and usage of DOS owned facilities by Non-Government Entities (NGEs).

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for engagement as Young Professional under IN-SPACe Young Professional Scheme for **a period of 01 (One) year (extendable up to 03-One year at time subject to need and satisfactory performance)** as per terms and conditions of IN-SPACe Young Professional Scheme.

YP Category	No. of Posts
Young professional (Grade -2) in Various Directorates of IN-SPACe	06

The detailed advertisement is available on the website **https://www.inspace.gov.**in under announcement section. **The last date for submission of application is 19/01/2026.**

Issued by IN-SPACe

CBC 49121/12/0008/2526

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER
CANCELLATION
e-Tender Notice No. ST-CKP-OT-25-26-93, dtd. 08.12.2025 published earlier by Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, S.E. Railway, Chakradharpur will be treated as **cancelled.** (PR-978/C)

EASTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.: 222-S/1/W-II, dated: 17.12.2025. Following e-tender is invited online by the Divisional Railway Manager, DRM Building, Eastern Railway, Sealdah Division, Kaiser Street, Kolkata 700014 for the following work: **Tender No.: TN-165-25-26. Name of the work:** Open e-tender for the work of Deep Screening of 40 Tkm plain track and 50 nos. Turnout by BCM in Sealdah-Ballygunge, Ballygunge-Komagata Maru Budge Budge and circular Railway and other ancillary works under Assistant Engineer/Ballygunge in the jurisdiction of Divisional Engineer (HQ)/Sealdah. **Tender value**: ₹ 1,54,66,332. **Earnest Money Deposited**: ₹ 2,27,300. **Completion period for the work:** Twelve (12) months. **Date and time of closing of tender :** 13.01.2026 at 15.00 hrs. The tender documents and details at **www.ireps.gov.in**. The bidding is to be submitted through e-tendering on above website. Manual offers will be summarily rejected. As per Indian Railway Standard General Conditions of Contract 2022 cost of e-Tender Form is Nil. Date and time of opening of tender is **13.01.2026** at **15.30 hrs.** (SDAH-310/2025-26)
Tender Notices are also available at website: **www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in**
Follow us at: @EasternRailway easternrailwayheadquarter

S.E. RAILWAY – E-TENDER
Tender Notice No.: PCMM/GENL/TP/2025/45 Dated : 19.12.2025
TENDER FOR "E" PROCUREMENT SYSTEM
The Principal Chief Materials Manager, South Eastern Railway, Hd. Qrs. Office (5th Floor), New Administrative Building, 11, Garden Reach Road, Kolkata-700043 for and on behalf of the President of India invites open E-tenders which have been uploaded on website **www.ireps.gov.in** as follows. All the tenders will be closed at 14.00 hrs.

Sl No.	Tender No.	Closing Date	Brief Description	Quantity	EMD Amount (in Rs.)
1.	46253119A	12.01.26	Porcelain Bracket insulator (RI 6030-1) (1050mm CD), etc.	2031 Nos.	1,02,430/-
2.	46253102B	13.01.26	Porcelain Stay Arm Insulator R.I 6000-2 (1050mm CD) etc.	2923 Nos.	1,42,790/-
3.	47253041	15.01.26	Three Phase Stainless Steel Heater Unit Complete for LHB RMPU AC coaches.	497 Set	1,27,850/-
4.	79251779B	14.01.26	Fire Retardant Curtain Fabric for all AC coaches etc.	15320 Mtr.	1,18,390/-
5.	IF256002	20.01.26	Key Bolt with Nut, Spring Washer and Split Pin	265000 Nos.	1,80,090/-
6.	IE255312A	14.01.26	Supply of 1100V Grade L.T. Aerial Bunched Cable etc.	54400 Mtr.	2,00,280/-
7.	29253192A	07.01.26	Impellers for oil cooling unit for transformer.	201 Nos.	2,03,970/-
8.	29255115	26.01.26	Blower for Oil Cooling Unit with Casing etc.	21 Nos.	1,09,030/-
9.	29253713	29.01.26	Overhauling kit for Feed valve.	182 Nos.	1,63,220/-
10.	65255045	20.01.26	Supply, Installation and commissioning of CNC Portal Wheel Lathe with AMC. (Pre-bid meeting on 02/01/26 at 12:00 hrs at PCMM Meeting Room/SER/GRC/ Kol- 43).	01 No.	20,00,000/-
11.	30251394A	19.01.26	Lateral Side Flange (RH) for UIC type Rubber Vestibule etc.	330 Nos.	1,47,970/-

Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/description/ specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these items will be accepted. **N.B.**: Prospective Bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all other tenders & any Corrigendum published thereafter. (PR-980)

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY
Advertised E-Tendering
Tender Notice No. DYCE-C-I-BPL-02-2025
Dated: 16.12.2025
E-Tender [Two packet system] on behalf of the President of India acting through Dy Chief Engineer -I [Construction], West Central Railway, Bhopal invites tenders for the following works. **Tender No. :** DYCE-C-I-BPL-02-2025, **Description of work :** Protection work of embankment, toe wall and other miscellaneous works in connection with Powerkheda Jhujharpur UP and DN flyover., **Approx cost tender :** 1772.9 7 lacs, **Earnest of Money (Rs)** : 1036500.00, **Date of opening of tender :** 07.01.2026 at 15.00 hrs., **period Completion :** 6 months including harvest & monsoon period The complete information of above E-Tender is available in website IREPS (www.ireps.gov.in) and also placed on the notice board of the office of Dy CE/C/BPL. Tenders other than in the form of e-bids shall not be accepted against above tenders.
Sd./-
Dy. CE/C-I
West Central Railway, Bhopal
स्वच्छ भारत अभियान
एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
SALEM DIVISION (SIGNAL & TELECOM BRANCH)
E - Tender Notice No. (i) SA-SG-120-I-OT-17-2025, Closing Date: 07.01.2026
E - Tender Notice No. (ii) SA-SG-120-I-OT-18-2025, Closing Date: 08.01.2026
For and on behalf of the President of India, The Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer / Southern Railway / Salem Division, Salem - 636 005 invites ONLINE tenders for the following works as per tender notice given in our e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in** The tenderer(s) / contractor(s) intending to apply for e-tender for WORKS in Salem Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal **"www.ireps.gov.in"** and only online tenders will be accepted. Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) & Tender Document Cost (TDC), in respect of e-tendering, should be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR) will not be accepted as EMD for tenders invited on IREPS (e-tender portal).

Sl. No.	Tender Notice No.	Name of Work	Approximate Cost of the Work ₹	Earnest Money Deposit ₹	Cost of tender form including GST	Eligibility criteria for similar single work previously	Period of Completion in months
1	SA-SG-120-I-OT-17- 2025	Salem Division: Augmentation of Good shed lines (Rd. 63&7) to full length with CC unloading pavement between Rd.6&7 for about 300m at PLMD station	67,51,641.72	1,35,000.00	Nil	Applicable	12 Months
2	SA-SG-120-I-OT-18-2025	Salem Division: Provision of telecom arrangements at various good sheds (ED, TUP, PY, VNJ, NMKL, & CVD) and Running room at IGU	2,53,35,746.28	2,76,700.00	Nil	Applicable	12 Months

Tender closing date and time: **07.01.2026 at 15.00 Hrs. & 08/01/2026 at 15.00**
Note: Details of approximate value of tender, tender form cost, EMD & location are given on the e-portal, "**www.ireps.gov.in**" For other details, terms and conditions, the tenderers are advised to refer to the Tender documents which are available at "**www.ireps.gov.in**" website
Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer / Salem - 636 005

THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving
Saint Claire's Prayer
May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, adored, glorified & loved today and everyday throughout the world, now and forever. Amen, Ask St. Claire for three favours too impossible and say nine Hail Mary's and the above prayer for nine days, with a lighted candle. Pray whether you believe or not publish on the ninth day. You request will be granted no matter how impossible it is
- J. Vijaya

On the occasion of CHRISTMAS Presenting
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Spent 43% guarantee funds on North Karnataka, says CM

Govinda Rao panel expected to submit report next month

BELAGAVI, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday came out with micro statistics about the five guarantee schemes of the Congress, stating that 43.63% of the overall expenditure on the guarantees was spent on beneficiaries from the North Karnataka region.

Answering on behalf of the government in the debate on the development of North Karnataka in the Legislative Assembly, Siddaramaiah noted that 2.96 crore of the estimated 6.95 crore people (42%) in the state were in North Karnataka. He said that out of the total Rs 1,06,076 cr spent on guarantees, Rs 46,277 crore has been utilised for the NK beneficiaries alone.

The CM pointed out that the M Govinda Rao committee appointed to assess the present condition of North Karnataka would submit its report in January. "We had given time till this November but they have sought another two months. Most likely they will submit the report in January. Once the report comes, we will try to implement recommendations," he said.

The chief minister noted that the per capita income of Karnataka (Rs 3.39 lakh per annum) was the highest in the country. However, he explained that there was a lot of variation within the state, with Bengaluru Urban having a per capita income of Rs 7.38 lakh, while Kalaburagi had Rs 1.43 lakh per annum. Going into the reasons for these disparities, Siddaramaiah noted that the lack of dairy activities in North Karnataka was a major setback. "For this reason, we have decided to emphasise on dairy farming in Kalyana Karnataka in the coming year," he added.

Special provision for KK

The chief minister recalled the history of the struggle to provide special provisions for the Kalyana Karnataka region, noting that when former CM S M Krishna had sought special status under Article 371 (J), former deputy prime minister and BJP leader L K Advani had "rejected" it by claiming that other states would also ask for the same.

Noting that Article 371 (J) was implemented during the UPA regime, Siddaramaiah said: "Because of that, from 2014-24, 10,000 medical students, 31,000 engineering students and 12,000 dental, homeopathy etc got admission."

Highlighting that education and health facilities were needed to improve North Karnataka, he said the government would examine and implement the Prof Chaya Devadagaonkar committee report. Siddaramaiah said it would take 5-6 years for improving education scenario in North Karnataka region.

Slamming the Union government for not providing funds under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Generation Scheme (MGNREGA), he said: "They have changed the name now. They shot dead Gandhi once. They've killed him again."

Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka took exception to this comment, and noted that those words should be expunged.

The chief minister pointed out that the government had decided to acquire land for the Upper Krishna Project in one go, adding that funds will be provided in the coming Budget. The BJP expressed disappointment with the CM's reply and staged a walkout.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah speaks in the Legislative Assembly at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi on Friday.

FRP: Siddaramaiah blames Centre

Speaking about farmers' protests seeking higher Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) for the sugarcane produced, Siddaramaiah explained that an FRP of Rs 3,550 had been fixed by the Union government for a recovery rate of 10.25%.

He added that when harvest and transportation costs were deducted, this would come to Rs 2,700. He noted that the government had now fixed Rs 3,300 per tonne (excluding harvesting and transportation costs).

"BJP tried to pour ghee on fire. Vijayendra (BJP state president) should have slept there (protest site)," he said. When BJP legislators said it was to help farmers, the CM retorted: "FRP is fixed by the Union government. He should've slept outside the prime minister's house."

Hate speech bill passed in Council amid Opposition clamour

Objective of legislation to create 'undeclared' Emergency: C T Ravi

BELAGAVI, DHNS

A day after the Assembly passed the hate speech bill amid protests by the Opposition, the Legislative Council on Friday passed the Karnataka Hate Speech and Crimes (Prevention) Bill after a debate that lasted six hours.

As many as 23 MLCs offered their insights on the bill after Home Minister G Parameshwara tabled the legislation in the Council. Dubbing the bill "draconian," BJP members said that the legislation was aimed at suppressing dissenting voices.

Expressing fears over the possible misuse of the legislation, BJP leaders urged the government to either withdraw the bill or to refer it to a House Committee. The debate on the bill was marked by heated exchange of words between the government and opposition benches.

BJP MLC and former minister C T Ravi alleged that the bill went against the spirit of the Freedom of Speech, enshrined in the Constitution as a Fundamental Right. "The purpose of this bill is to usher in a state of 'undeclared' Emergency, and will be used as a tool of political vendetta," said Ravi. Chaos ensued after Ravi used words he claimed were mentioned in the scriptures of a religion.

"Neither I nor you are permanent here," Ravi told Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti, a remark that drew flak from the Congress, forcing the House to be adjourned for five minutes. When the Council reconvened, Ravi apologised to Horatti for his remarks.

BJP members complained that the bill was too ambiguous, and expressed fears of its being used to create a police state.

Parameshwara assured the opposition that mere criticism would not be deemed 'hate speech'. When IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge referred to a Union Minister, opposition members trooped into the well to express their outrage, and the bill was passed amid the clamour that ensued.

Meanwhile, the Karnataka Scheduled Castes (Sub-Classification) Bill was also passed after a detailed discussion.

Opposition members stage a protest in the well of the Legislative Council during the discussion on hate speech bill, in Suvarna Vidhana Soudha at Belagavi on Friday.
DH PHOTO/RANJU P

Land grab: KBG seeks probe, suspects hit-job by 'own people'

BELAGAVI, DHNS

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda (KBG) suggested that some 'disgruntled' Congress leaders and his department officials were behind the land-grabbing allegations against him, which he refuted in the Assembly on Friday.

"Some of my own people, those around me, helped BJP with this (allegation)," Gowda said in a suo motu statement, urging Speaker U T Khader to order a probe in this regard .

Gowda and his family have been accused of grabbing 21.16 acres of land, survey numbers 46 (a lake) and 47 (a burial ground), at Garudapalya in Kolar.

"When you're working with strictness, there are those who accept us and those who'll be affected. Those affected try to take it out on us. They include officials and people here (in the Assembly)," Gowda said.

The Garudapalya village was bought by the Mysuru royalty in 1923. "For some reason, in 1953, my grandfather Chowdegowda got it for a 10-year lease. My family has been cultivating there since then," Gowda said.

"I don't know what happened, but the royal family decided to sell the lands even before the expiry of the lease. Before my grandfather could arrange the money, the lands were sold to one Habeebulla Khan in 1959," Gowda said.

The entire Garudapalya village measuring 256 acres was sold to Khan, Gowda said.

Chowdegowda approached the special deputy commissioner who issued an order in favour of Khan. Next, Chowdegowda approached the Mysuru Appellate Tribunal. "In 1965, Chowdegowda and Khan filed a compromise petition. Thereafter, the ownership came to Chowdegowda," he said.

Gowda showed the village map and pointed to two lakes. "The lakes still exist. We've desilted and revived them," he said. "For one year, the RTC said it was a lake. Otherwise, consistently, all documents refer to this survey number as a stone hill. Right next to the lake, there are rocks," Gowda said. Survey number 48 is also a lake, Gowda said, adding that it is still in the governmnet's name.

On the burial ground, Gowda said: "There's only one 1964 document (*prati pustaka*) that mentions the burial ground."

Gowda said he was even ready to relinquish the one acre. "It's no big deal," he said.

CM busts 'Karma Siddhanta'

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Those who believe in 12th century social reformer Basavanna must reject the *Karma Siddhanta*, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah argued in the Assembly on Friday.

Siddaramaiah said this during his reply on the North Karnataka discussion. "Literacy has increased, but caste hasn't gone away," he said. "Many people blame sins they committed in a previous life for their poverty or lack of education. They say it's fate... the *Karma Siddhanta*. It was Basavanna who rejected this," he said.

Siddaramaiah said people still had the "mindset of slavery" due to long years of "Mohammedan and British rule."

This "mindset of slavery" strengthened the caste system, he said. "Unless caste goes, there won't be equality."

Intervening, Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka raised Siddaramaiah's chief ministerial ambition.

"You sat down with Brahma and got your fate written. Nothing, not even caste, came in your way," he said. "You're breaking records," he said, referring to Siddaramaiah on the verge of breaking D Devaraj Urs' record as the longest-serving CM.

Siddaramaiah said he had no belief in fate. "We were six children and our parents were uneducated. My elder brother studied up to Class 4. Others didn't go to school. Did Brahma write that only I will study law?"

BJP's Suresh Gowda told Siddaramaiah that he became the chief minister in Congress in just 10 years. "You were fated! How can you not believe in *Karma Siddhanta*?" he asked.

"Do you believe in Basavanna?" Siddaramaiah asked. "If you believe in Basavanna, you must reject *Karma Siddhanta*. You can't believe both."

Karandlaje urges Guv not to give assent to hate speech bill

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Union Minister of State for Labour Shobha Karandlaje on Friday urged Karnataka Governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot to withhold assent to the Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill, 2025 and to reserve the same for the consideration of the President under Article 200 of the Constitution of India, in the 'larger interest' of constitutional governance, democratic freedoms, and the rule of law.

In a letter to the governor, the minister said, "The bill, in its present form, establishes a state-controlled mechanism for monitoring, assessing, and penalising speech, rather than narrowly addressing expression that poses a clear and imminent threat to public order."

"The structure of the bill enables executive authorities to determine the permissibility of expression, thereby transforming the law into a tool capable of suppressing voices critical of the government. Such an approach undermines the constitutional guarantee of democratic dissent and free expression," Karandlaje said in the letter.

"The bill authorises executive authorities and law-enforcement agencies to assess and act upon speech without adequate judicial oversight. Penal consequences are linked to executive assessment, thereby concentrating investigative and adjudicatory functions within the executive. Such an arrangement erodes procedural safeguards and is inconsistent with constitutional principles governing the protection of fundamental rights," Shobha, BJP Lok Sabha member from Bangalore North, said.

Karandlaje expressed concern that the legislation may be invoked to silence Kannada language activists, women's organisations, representatives of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, backward classes, minorities, journalists, student groups, and civil society organisations that raise issues of governance, social justice, or administrative accountability.

"Instead of empowering vulnerable communities, the bill risks becoming an instrument to deter them from articulating grievances and participating meaningfully in public discourse, thereby defeating the very constitutional promise of equality, dignity, and inclusive democracy," she said in her letter.

Karandlaje also said that the legislation has attracted widespread opposition from civil society organisations, journalists' associations and legal bodies, who have expressed serious apprehension that it may be used to suppress legitimate criticism and dissent.

"Given that the Bill directly impacts fundamental rights guaranteed under Part III of the Constitution, and in view of the serious constitutional questions it raises, this is a fit case for the exercise of constitutional discretion under Article 200. Reserving the Bill for the consideration of the Hon'ble President would enable a broader constitutional examination of its implications for civil liberties and the federal constitutional balance," she said in her letter.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, No.1, Building Division, SJP Campus, Bengaluru-560 001, Phone: 080-22255210
No. EE/Bld.1/AE-4/2025-26/63 Date: 18.12.2025

CORRIGENDUM

Corrigendum Notification No.63 dated 18.12.2025, in respect of the work **'Construction of Office Building in the premises of Karnataka State Seeds Corporation Ltd., Hebbal, Bengaluru, under the co-partnership of Agriculture Department and Karnataka State Beverages Corporation Ltd., under lump sum, fixed price, no-variation contract on turnkey basis (PWD/2025-26/BD/Work Indent-28773)'**, has been uploaded to the e-procurement portal. Kindly go through the same.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/DD-C.P/4544/KSMCA/2025-26

GOVERNMENT KARNATAKA
POLICE DEPARTMENT
(E-mail ID:- ssestmaq@ksp.gov.in & storesmaq@ksp.gov.in)
Office of the Superintendent of Police
D.K. District, Mangalore

No. : STS/105 (4,5) DK/2025-26 Dated : 19.12.2025

RETENDER NOTICE

The tender is invited in " Two Cover System" as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act, 1999 and Rules, 2000 through e-Procurement portal of Government of Karnataka (www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in) for supply of Traffic and Road Safety Equipments for D.K District Police Unit.

Serial No	Description of Tender	Last Date and time for bid submission
1	Last Date for Tender Queries and Clarification	23-12-2025 upto 11.00 Hrs
2	Pre – Bid Meeting	24-12-2025 upto 11.00 Hrs
3	Last Date and time for submission of tender	03-01-2026 at 17.00 Hrs
4	Date and Time opening of Technical Bid	05-01-2026 at 11.00 Hrs
5	Date and Time opening of Financial Bid	07-01-2026 at 11.00 Hrs

Office of the Superintendent of Police invites the bid in Mangaluru for the work as mentioned below.

ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಸಾಮಾಗ್ರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಅನುದಾನದ ವಿವರ
1	Purchase & Installation of VMS boards	62,26,863-00
2	Purchase And Installation Of Automatic Number Plate Recognition Cameras (ANPR) Or Closed Circuit Television Cameras (CCTV)	52,63,150-00

In order to participate in e-Procurement platform all the intended tenderers have to register in the e-Procurement portal. The Tenderers who participate can take assistance with e- Procurement helpdesk at 080-23010900, 23010901 in order to participate in the e-Procurement tender. It is mandatory for tenderers to register in e-Procurement platform.

Please visit www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and for any further clarification or information, the tenderer may contact .The Superintendent of Police, Dakshina Kannada District Contact No. 09480805301 and Telephone No.0824-2220503.

Sd/-
Superintendent of Police
D.K District, Mangaluru
DIPR/DK/MPL/1270/25-26

KARNATAKA STATE NATURAL DISASTER MONITORING CENTRE
(A Regd. Society of Govt. of Karnataka)
Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan Road, Near Yelahanka-Attur Layout, Bengaluru- 560 064. Ph.: 080-67355000
No.KSNDMC/2025-26/SE0019 Date: 19.12.2025

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

KSNDMC invites tenders for **the Comprehensive annual maintenance of firewall device and backup software** with Tender No.KSNDMC/2025-26/SE0019 through e-procurement portal on **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Last date for submission of bid is **03.01.2026,** Pre-bid meeting is **on 29.12.2025 at 11.00 A.M. at KSNDMC.** Further the tender document details can be obtained through e-procurement portal of GoK.

Sd/-Director

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Malleshwaram Zone
Office of the Executive Engineer, Basavanagudi Division, BWCC Building, Channamanakere Achchukattu, Vidyapeeta, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-85
No:EE(BG)/KPPP/TEND/06/2025-26 Date: 19-12-2025

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)
The Executive Engineer, Basavanagudi Division, BWCC invites tender on behalf of Commissioner, BWCC, Bengaluru from eligible Tenderers registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with PWD/CPWD or any state Government Organization for the execution of works detailed in the table below.

Sl No.	Name of the Package
1.	Annual Maintenance of Roads and Footpaths in Ward Jurisdiction area in Ward No-199, **Amount put to tender: ₹. 25.40 Lakhs, EMD: ₹. 50,000/-**
2.	Annual Maintenance of Roads and Footpaths in Ward Jurisdiction area in Ward No-200, **Amount put to tender: ₹. 25.41 Lakhs, EMD: ₹. 50,000/-**
3.	Annual Maintenance of Roads and Footpaths in Ward Jurisdiction area in Ward No-201, **Amount put to tender: ₹. 25.40 Lakhs, EMD: ₹. 50,000/-**
4.	Providing Rainwater Harvesting to BBMP building in Basavanagudi Constituency **Amount put to tender: ₹. 5.45 Lakhs, EMD: ₹. 14,000/-**

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents may be downloaded in the KPP portal from **20-12-2025** at **3:00** pm onwards (2) Last Date & Time for uploading tender documents on **31-12-2025** upto **3:00** pm. (3) Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on **24-12-2025** at **4:00** pm. (4) Opening of Tender on **01-01-2026** at **4:00** pm. (5) Financial opening date will be intimated through KPP Portal.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Basavanagudi Division
Malleshwaram Zone, BWCC

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office Of The Executive Engineer, Hebbal Division, BNCC, ZONE-2
2nd Floor BNCC (Old BBMP) Building, Opp to Indira Canteen, JC Nagar Main Road, Munireddy Palya, Bengaluru-560006
No: BNCC-Z2/EE/HBL/PR/04/2025-26 Date:19-12-2025.

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Chief Commissioner BNCC for the works mentioned below from the registered contractors of GBA Bengaluru North City Corporation, or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations.
The Tender Document can be downloaded from the GOK KPPP Website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on payment of prescribed fee noted against each item of work (nonrefundable) in the form of e-Payment through KPPP Platform. The Tenderer should accompany a copy of the valid contractor Registration and shall be submitted through KPP Portal. (Standard Tender Document KW-4)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work/Est Cost (in Lakhs)/EMD in Rupees/Category.
1	Repairs and Maintainance of BBMP Building in Hebbal Constituency East Zone. Estimate Cost : **Rs.28.00 Lakhs,** EMD **Rs.56,000/-**, Category : **Others.**
2	Repairs and Maintainance of BBMP Community Hall in Hebbal Constituency in East Zone. Estimate Cost : **Rs.10.00 Lakhs,** EMD **Rs.25,000/-**, Category : **SC.**
3	Repairs and Maintainance of Market Building in Hebbala Constituency in East Zone. Estimate Cost : **Rs.5.00 Lakhs,** EMD **Rs.12,500/-**, Category : **ST.**
4	Repairs and Miantainance of BBMP Nursery/Primary School in Dinnur Main Road in East Zone. Estimate Cost : **Rs.15.00 Lakhs,** EMD **Rs.37,500/-**, Category : **CAT-I.**
5	Repairs and Miantainance of BBMP Nursery/Primary School in 5th Main 2nd Cross Road RT Nagar Bustand in east Zone. Estimate Cost : **Rs.15.00 Lakhs,** EMD **Rs.37,500/-**, Category : **CAT-II(A).**
6	Repairs and Maintainance Of Primary Health Centres in Hebbal Constituency in east Zone. Estimate Cost : **Rs.8.00 Lakhs,** EMD **Rs.20,000/-**, Category : **Others.**
7	Maintainance and repair of Crematorium / Burial Ground in Hebbal Constituency in East Zone. Estimate Cost : **Rs.23.00 Lakhs,** EMD **Rs.46,000/-**, Category : **Others.**

Calendar of events: (1) Tender Documents can be uploaded in E-Portal from **22-12-2025. (2)** Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on **31-12-2025 at 15:00 Hrs noon** in the office of the Executive Engineer, Hebbal Division, JC Nagar main Road, Bangalore-560 006. **(3)** Last Date for uploading the Filled proposals is **12-01-2026 up to 16:00 hours. (4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid is **13-01-2026 after 16:30 hours. (5)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid will be after Approval of Technical BID

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Hebbal Division, Zone-2
Bengaluru North City Corporation

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. CEE/Tr(OP)ZM/SEE(O)/EE Civil/EOD-1/2025-26/7387 Date: 19.12.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL MODE ONLY)

KPTCL invites e-bids for Providing manpower service of caretaker cum cook, Housekeeping helpers/ sweepers and gardener for maintenance of KPTCL New Guest House located at FTS premises, Mysuru, coming under the jurisdiction of Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL Mysuru
The tender for the above work is invited through electronic mode. The interested bidders can obtain the application in electronic mode by paying the tender fee. The detailed notification regarding above said enquiry in the E-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyper link 'E Procurement KPTCL' or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 20.12.2025.** Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Electy)., Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavana, Ground Floor, FTS Compound, Mysuru-570007.

HUBLI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned Govt. of Karnataka undertaking)
Office of the Superintending Engineer (Ele), Sector No. 63, Navanagar, Bagalkote - 587103. Office No: 08354-235654
Cell: +91-9449877676 E-mail. ID: seebgkt.hescom@gmail.com
Corporate Identity Number (CIN) : U31401KA2002SGC030437
No:BGKT/SEE/EEE(O)/AEE-2/AE-2/2025-26/13159-13170 Dated: 18-12-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement mode only)

The Superintending Engineer (Ele), O & M Circle, HESCOM, Bagalkote re-invited Service Tenders (2025-26) for Various Outsource Services. Last Date for Receipt of Bid Document is **03-01-2026 before 16.00 Hours** through e-Procurement mode only.
The detailed bidding documents can be downloaded through e-Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**
Note: Any changes, additions, or amendments will be communicated only in e-procurement. They will not be published in any newspaper.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele),
O & M Circle,
HESCOM, Bagalkote.
DIPR/Dharwad/1005/Adverto/2025-26

Kerala SIR: CM concerned over deletion of 25 lakh voters

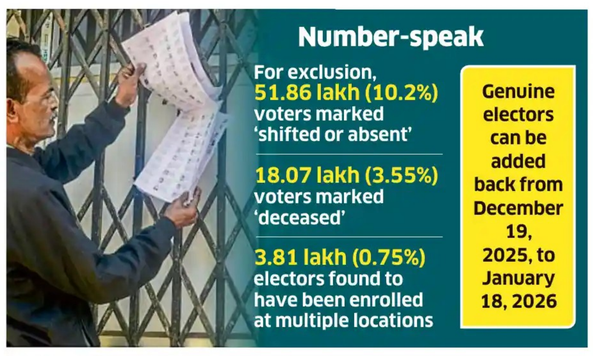
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has expressed concerns over the deletion of around 25 lakh voters from the state's electoral rolls as part of the special intensive revision (SIR).

He stated that among the 25 lakh names removed, the reason for the deletion of 1.86 lakh voters was mentioned as "others". This aggravated concerns over the fairness of the SIR process. He demanded that the Election Commission (EC) give adequate time for the carrying out of a fair process that ensured that all genuine voters were included.

Vijayan also pointed out that since the SIR in Kerala was being done by linking it to the 2002 voters' list, scores of people who did not attain the age of 18 in 2002 were reportedly eliminated in the process because they could not link to their relatives in the 2002 list. He urged the EC to ensure that all genuine voters in the list published in September, ahead of local body polls, after the special summary revision, are not eliminated.

Guj SIR: Over 73L 'shifted', 'absent', 'dead' voters deleted

For 5.08 cr electors, state poll panel got back 4.31 cr forms



Number-speak

- For exclusion, **51.86 lakh (10.2%)** voters marked 'shifted or absent'
- **18.07 lakh (3.55%)** voters marked 'deceased'
- **3.81 lakh (0.75%)** electors found to have been enrolled at multiple locations

Genuine electors can be added back from December 19, 2025, to January 18, 2026

SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Gujarat has resulted in the deletion of over 73 lakh voters.

For a total of 5.08 crore registered electors, the state poll panel received 4.31 crore enumeration forms, accounting for nearly 85.5% of the electorate.

The draft roll for Gujarat, published on Friday, excluded 51.86 lakh (10.2%) voters who were marked "shifted or absent", 18.07 lakh (3.55%) voters marked "deceased", and 3.81 lakh (0.75%) electors who were found to have been enrolled at multiple locations.

The chief electoral officer (CEO), while releasing the data, explained that the deletions were primarily due to block-level officers (BLOs) being unable to locate electors or not receiving their enumeration forms.

The reasons cited included electors having registered in other states or Union Territories, being untraceable, or failing to submit the forms by the final deadline, which was December 14.

Officials said genuine electors could still be added back during the claims-and-objection period from December 19, 2025, to January 18, 2026.

The printed and digital booth-wise copies of the draft rolls have been provided to all recognised political parties, and are also available on the website https://ceo.gujarat.gov.in.

Calling the exercise "successful", the officials said it was the result of the "coordinated efforts of DEOs of all 33 districts,182 EROs, 855 AEROs, and BLOs deployed at 50,963 polling booths", supported by 30,833 volunteers.

They added: "Field representatives of six national recognised political parties, including their district presidents, also actively participated, with as many as 54,443 booth-level agents (BLAs) appointed by them."

The names of persons not included in the draft rolls will be displayed at local-body offices to enable public access to the lists, along with the reasons for non-inclusion. These lists will also be published on the DEO and CEO's website in an accessible format, officials said.

The election officials, while emphasising that there was no deletion without due process, also said that "any elector or political party may file claims or objections for inclusion of eligible electors or deletion of ineligible names".

CEO Hareet Shukla said: "As per Para 5(b) of the SIR guidelines, no name can be deleted from the draft rolls published on December 16 without notice and a speaking order by the ERO/AERO."

He added: "Any aggrieved elector may appeal to the district magistrate and then to the CEO under Section 24 of the RP Act, 1950. Volunteers are also being trained to assist electors in filing appeals."

Nyaya Ratha, 'legal services clinic on wheels' launched

(Left to right) Justice H Shashidhara Shetty, Prof Umamahesh Sathyanarayan, Justice Anu Sivaraman, Justice Vibhu Bakhru, M R Anandaram and K S Bharat Kumar at the launch of Nyaya Ratha.

The Karnataka State Legal Services Authority (KSLSA) Bengaluru, in association with Ramaiah College of Law, launched Nyaya Ratha, a 'legal services clinic on wheels', yesterday, at the High Court of Karnataka.

The Nyaya Ratha was flagged off by Justice Vibhu Bakhru, Chief Justice, High Court of Karnataka and Patron-in-chief, KSLSA, along with Justice Anu Sivaraman, Judge, High Court of Karnataka and Executive Chairperson, KSLSA.

M R Anandaram, Secretary, Gokula Education Foundation; Justice H Shashidhara Shetty, Member Secretary, KSLSA; K S Bharat Kumar, Registrar General, High Court of Karnataka; Prof Umamahesh Sathyanarayan, Principal, Ramaiah College of Law; along with the para-legal volunteers of the legal services clinic were present on the occasion.

Curated by DH Brandspot

Six dead as water tank collapses at Nagpur factory

NAGPUR, PTI: Six persons died and nine were injured after a water tank collapsed at an industrial unit on the outskirts of Nagpur city on Friday, a police official said.

The incident occurred around 9.30 am at Avaada Electro Private Limited, a solar panel manufacturing factory, the official said.

Expressing grief over the incident, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said the state government will give ex-gratia of Rs 5 lakh each to the kin of the deceased.

The firm has also agreed to pay Rs 30 lakh each to the families of those who lost their lives, a statement said.

Pilots' body calls for scrapping dispensations on duty norms

MUMBAI, PTI: Pilots' body FIP on Friday sought withdrawal of all dispensations/variations given to the airlines on the pilots' duty and rest period norms so that safety is not compromised.

The Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP), which represents some 5,000 pilots in the country, in a letter to the Union Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu, also sought a periodic review of the recruitment of pilots by airlines by the aviation safety regulator DGCA.

The DGCA has provided certain relaxations to the domestic airlines, including IndiGo and Air India, in the pilots' new Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) framework.

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Leopard injures 7 in residential colony in Mumbai, rescued

Forest teams tranquillise big cat after tense chase

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

A leopard accidentally strayed into a densely populated residential area in the Mira-Bhayander suburbs, grievously injuring seven people before being rescued on Friday evening..

The leopard entered the Parijat Building complex off the Talav Road area in the Thane district, which is part of the Mumbai metropolitan region.

Maharashtra Forest Department (MFD), Thane Forest Range, Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP), Mira-Bhayander Municipal Corporation, and Mira-Bhayander Vasai-Virar Police teams launched hectic efforts to rescue the leopard.

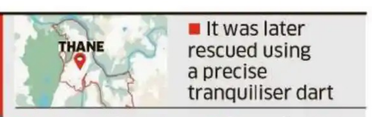
It seems the leopard has strayed from either the Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Tungareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary, or the Thane Forest Range.

"There was tension, a sense of fear and anguish... the incident triggered chaos in the locality," said Surendra Mishra, a resident of Mira-Bhayander.

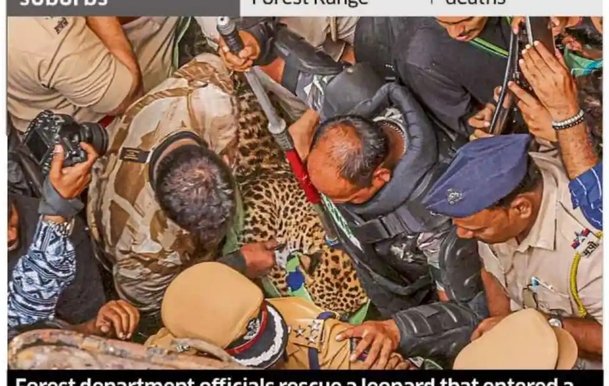
BIG CAT TERROR

7 people injured

Leopard entered residential area in Mira-Bhayander suburbs



- It was later rescued using a precise tranquiliser dart
- Believed to have strayed off from Sanjay Gandhi National Park, the Tungareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary or the Thane Forest Range
- Recent uptick recorded in such incidents from Pune, Ahilyanagar and Nashik districts, leading to over a dozen deaths



Forest department officials rescue a leopard that entered a residential complex, at Bhayandar, in Thane district. PTI

Those injured were identified as: Dipu Bhawmik (52), Chaganlal Bahrecha (48), Shyam Pratap Sahni (29), Khushi Mukesh Tak (23), Anjali Mukesh Tak (23), Bharti Tak (55) and Rajesh Yadav (50).

"The leopard could be seen in the staircase area, and all of a sudden started attacking people," said Rakesh Nigam, a local resident

He added that a few people even managed to capture visuals and images of the leopard on their phones.

The MFD and SGNP teams managed to administer a precise tranquilliser dart without causing harm to the big cat.

It was subsequently shifted to the Leopard Rescue Centre of the SGNP at Borivli in Mumbai. Mira-Bhayander MLA Narendra Mehta called upon state Forest Minister Ganesh Naik, urging the state government for swift action.

Mayor trouble for BJP in Kerala

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

CAPITAL CHALLENGE

- NDA won 50 seats in 101-member Thiruvananthapuram corporation, one short of majority
- Independents Radhakrishnan and Sudheesh Kumar hold balance of power
- Mayor election on Dec 26; BJP needs one independent's support or abstention

Despite its much-celebrated victory in the Thiruvananthapuram corporation, the fate of the BJP-led NDA hinges on the support of two independents, with the saffron party still one short of a clear majority. All eyes are now on Patoor Radhakrishnan and Congress-led UDF rebel Sudheesh Kumar, whose decisions will determine the NDA's control.

Even a week after the win — hailed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a "watershed moment in Kerala politics" — the BJP has yet to announce its mayoral candidate.

In the 101-member Thiruvananthapuram corporation, the NDA secured 50 seats, one short of a majority. The CPM-led LDF won 29, the UDF 19, and two independents, bringing the tally to 50.

The support of at least one independent is crucial for the BJP to secure stable governance. Leaders from all three fronts are in constant touch with the independents, seeking their backing. The BJP appears more hopeful of winning over Radhakrishnan, as Kumar is a UDF rebel and former Congress activist.

"My priority is the people of my ward, Kannammoola. I will take my decision based on their will," Radhakrishnan told *DH*.

Sudheesh Kumar said a committee of local residents, comprising representatives from all parties, had supported him during the election.

He added that the committee would collectively decide on the matter.

Mayor choice

In the mayoral election scheduled for December 26, the BJP will need at least one independent to either support its candidate or abstain from voting.

The BJP's choice of mayoral candidate is also reportedly mired in differences among party leaders. While one faction is backing senior district leader VV Rajesh, another is pushing for retired DGP and Kerala's first woman IPS officer R Sreelekha.

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Notify SOP for political events by January 5: HC to TN govt

CHENNAI, DHNS: The Madras High Court on Friday directed the Tamil Nadu government to notify the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for regulating political meetings and roadshows by January 5, after considering the objections and suggestions proposed by political parties.

The first bench of Chief Justice M M Shrivastava and Justice G Arul Murugan did not order any changes to the draft SOP prepared by the Tamil Nadu government, saying the final SOP was subject to judicial review. The order came on a petition filed by actor Vijay's Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) after having been aggrieved by "onerous" conditions imposed by the police for the party's campaign meetings.

"The state shall take a decision, one way or the other. A decision on the suggestions and objections of the parties has to be taken. Finalise the SOP and notify as early as possible and not later than January 5, 2026," the bench said in the order.

Banu Mushtaq opposes hijab but calls Nitish's act improper

MUMBAI, DHNS: Author and activist Banu Mushtaq said she was opposed to the practice of women covering their faces, but condemned the incident involving Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

The Kannada-language writer and lawyer spoke in Pune about the episode in which Nitish pulled down the hijab of a woman during a Bihar government event. She said she was against both acts.

"When I am living in a secular state, we need a democratic space. The face is the identity of a person. There is no compulsion to cover the face, but people do... which is a misinterpretation of Islam."

She stressed that pulling down the hijab worn by the woman was improper. She was speaking at the Pune Literature Festival.

Banu Mushtaq's collection of short stories, translated into English as 'Heart Lamp', won the 2025 International Booker Prize.

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A test of academic autonomy, federalism

After its introduction in the Lok Sabha, the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill has been referred to a joint parliamentary committee. Aimed to overhaul the regulation of higher education in the country and to "re-energise the sector and enable it to thrive", the Bill risks dismantling established systems through tighter government control and overregulation. Its stated objective to simplify and streamline regulation may create a system where the diversities are extinguished under centralised power. The Bill seeks to repeal the UGC Act, the AICTE Act, and the NCTE Act. It proposes to set up an apex umbrella body that will control higher education, along with three councils for regulation, accreditation, and stipulation of academic standards for universities and higher education institutions.

When one apex body replaces the three existing regulators, decision-making will get centralised. Education is in the Concurrent List, making states an important stakeholder in its administration across levels. This federal nature of the system will be lost in the setup envisaged in the Bill. State universities, where most students are enrolled, will be severely constrained in academics and administration. Their views and priorities on syllabi, teaching methodologies, courses, and practices are bound to be influenced by a set of uniform, centrally-decided norms and standards. The chairman and members of the apex umbrella body, the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan, will be appointed by the President. The body and councils under its ambit will be bound by directions of the Union government on matters of policy. In case of a disagreement, the final decision will lie with the government. The Bill also gives the government powers to supersede these bodies and assume their roles.

Creation of an all-powerful apex body risks centralising regulation of higher education

If the regulatory system as envisaged in the Bill comes into force, the central government will be able to influence all institutions of higher education, administratively and financially. This will translate into control of ideas, content in textbooks and teaching materials, research orientation, and the selection of faculty. The idea of promoting Indian knowledge systems and languages has merit, but its implementation is likely to be influenced by political and ideological interests. Titling the Bill in Hindi is a giveaway. The autonomy that regulatory bodies, universities, and other institutions had will be substantially reduced, and states will no longer be able to exercise their powers derived from the Concurrent List. The shift is already in play, seen in the Centre's attempts to control higher education through Governors in states ruled by Opposition parties. The Bill formalises this push towards absolute, uncontested control.

No cover for city's street vendors

The warning of protests by the Karnataka Pragathipara Beedi Vyaparigala Sangha over delays in issuing street vendor identity and verification cards is an indictment of Bengaluru's failure to implement an existing law. Three months after a survey, thousands of vendors remain undocumented, exposed to harassment by the police and civic officials, and punished not for illegality but for administrative apathy. Street vendors occupy an uneasy place in the city's economy. They are essential to daily urban life, yet are routinely treated as encroachers. Without identity cards and vending certificates, even surveyed vendors are vulnerable to eviction drives, confiscation of goods, and the informal *hafta* system. This thrives because legal recognition has been delayed. Pedestrians and motorists, meanwhile, pay the price due to blocked footpaths and unsafe traffic bottlenecks caused by unregulated roadside activity that could have been prevented with structured management.

The tragedy is that this conflict was anticipated and addressed by law. The Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, provides a framework to balance livelihoods with urban order. It mandates Town Vending Committees (TVCs) with vendor representation, periodic surveys, and demarcated vending, restricted, and no-vending zones. Crucially, the law fixes a holding capacity, capped at 2.5% of the local population. Where it is exceeded, surplus vendors are to be accommodated in nearby vending zones through relocation, not arbitrary eviction. Bengaluru's problem is not legal ambiguity but institutional collapse. The TVCs constituted under the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike have lapsed. After the city was carved into multiple corporations, they have not been reconstituted under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA). The current survey itself remains contested – the GBA claims to have identified 27,000 vendors, while activists estimate the number to be over one lakh. With identity cards pending, enforcement continues without a legal backbone. The result is discretion-driven governance that benefits neither vendors nor citizens.

Inaction on an existing law leaves vendors hassled, disrupts traffic and pedestrian movement

There are workable models. Bhubaneswar, for instance, has developed vending zones through public-private partnerships, offering vendors permanent spaces while keeping footpaths clear. Bengaluru may adopt a similar approach, dividing the city into green zones where vending is permitted on wide footpaths, amber zones where it is time- or day-restricted in dense areas, and red zones such as high-traffic junctions or narrow roads where vending is prohibited. Immediate issuance of identity cards, reconstitution of TVCs, transparent zoning, and design-based solutions are not optional; they are legal obligations. What Bengaluru lacks is not a framework but the political will to implement it.

PATIENT CAPITAL, RELIABLE RESULTS

The science behind slow TRLs

Time is investment in deep-science innovation, where rigour and validation are non-negotiable

RAJ WAGHRAY

Deep-science innovation typically means that science itself sits at the heart of the innovation journey. Unlike software products or consumer-facing commercial solutions that can be built, tested, and iterated quickly, deep-science innovation begins with a foundation of rigorous scientific research – often years of experimentation, laboratory work, and hypothesis-driven inquiry. At its core, it is not about creating a product first; it is about uncovering a fundamental scientific truth or breakthrough that can eventually solve a meaningful real-world problem.

These innovations emerge from science disciplines such as Materials Science, Biochemistry, Physics and Engineering – fields where progress depends on scientific validation, data, accuracy, and repeatability. Every step forward requires careful testing, controlled experimentation, and peer review. Only after the underlying science is proven, innovators build prototypes towards reducing it to a technology, validating and demonstrating performance in real environments, navigating certifications, and preparing the technology for commercial deployment.

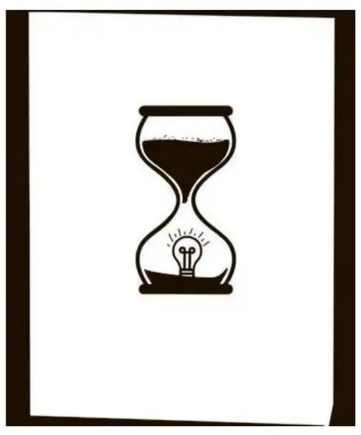
In deep science, the idea cannot be rushed because the risks, complexity, and consequences of failure are significantly higher. The innovation must work reliably, not just in theory but in the real world, and must be capable of scaling.

Technology Readiness Level (TRL) exists to provide a clear, universal way to measure how ready a technology is for real-world use. Because scientific and engineering innovations mature at very different speeds, TRL offers a common framework that researchers, startups, incubators, funders, and industry can all use to understand where a technology stands – from early-stage concepts to deployment-ready solutions. It helps reduce risk for investors and partners by indicating whether an idea has only been validated in theory, tested in a lab, or proven in real-world conditions.

By breaking the journey from discovery to commercialisation into clear stages, TRL prevents premature market entry and ensures that technologies are scientifically sound, safe, and reliable before scale-up. It also aligns researchers and industry on expectations, making it easier to plan resources, funding, infrastructure, and mentorship at each stage. In essence, TRL exists to bring clarity, discipline, and accountability to the technology development process, ensuring that innovations mature responsibly and effectively from lab to market.

Deep-science innovation moves slowly through the TRLs and takes longer to reach the market. But this slow, deliberate, science-first approach is also what makes deep-science solutions transformative. They create disruptions that can redefine industries, strengthen national capabilities, and address humanity's most critical challenges – from climate and health to energy, mobility, and space.

Deep-science ideas typically take 5-10 years to commercialise because they rely on proven scientific breakthroughs, extensive laboratory validation, multiple rounds of prototyping, regulatory approvals, and



industrial-scale testing.

These are processes that cannot be rushed without compromising safety or reliability. For India to accelerate deep-science innovation, it needs a strong backbone of high-quality scientific infrastructure, patient capital that understands long gestation cycles, and specialised incubation ecosystems that can support TRL advancement, IP creation, and industry partnerships.

Deep-science innovation cannot thrive without patient capital, funding that understands and supports the long, uncertain, and scientifically intensive journey from discovery to commercialisation. Patient capital recognises that meaningful scientific breakthroughs often require 5-10 years of sustained support, with resources deployed at different stages to advance TRLs, build IP, de-risk technology, and prepare for market adoption. This capital cannot expect rapid returns; instead, it bets on high-impact, high-barrier, IP-rich innovations that can transform industries once they mature. For India to build a globally competitive deep-tech ecosystem, we need investors, CSR partners, government programmes, and corporate innovation funds that are willing to nurture science-led startups through long gestation cycles. Patient capital is not slow capital; it is strategic, committed, and visionary, enabling the creation of technologies that define national capability and future economic leadership.

The role of incubators

Startup incubators play an indispensable role in advancing deep-science innovation, particularly because these technologies require long development cycles, specialised infrastructure, and structured TRL progression. Incubators bridge this journey by providing access to advanced labs, fabrication and prototyping facilities, testing environments, and scientific mentorship – resources that are typically unavailable to early-stage founders. They help startups navigate IP creation, regulatory pathways, industry standards, grant applications, and fundraising strategies, all of which are crucial for moving from low TRL stages to higher readiness levels.

Startup incubators also create a collaborative ecosystem where researchers, industry partners, investors, and policymakers converge, reducing the friction and uncertainty that surround deep-tech development. By de-risking innovation, accelerating validation, and aligning scientific capability with market needs, incubators act as the engines that transform frontier research into deployable, scalable technologies, strengthening the deep-tech ecosystem and national innovation capacity.

Low TRL phases are not inefficiencies; they are the foundation on which reliable, scalable, and globally competitive technologies are built. In deep-science innovation, spending years in early TRL is not a delay but an investment: This long, patient journey is precisely what differentiates frontier technologies from fast-turnaround software products. Deep-science innovation demands rigour, precision, and validation because it ultimately powers industries, impacts human lives, and shapes national capabilities.

Deep-science ideas do take time, but they deliver extraordinary long-term value. They create defensible IP, build strategic technological leadership, and unlock solutions to humanity's most pressing challenges – energy, sustainability, health, space, and advanced manufacturing. For India, nurturing deep-science innovation is not just an economic imperative but a strategic one. As the world enters a new era of technological competition, countries that invest today in early-stage, low-TRL science will lead tomorrow's breakthroughs. By strengthening scientific incubation, channelling patient capital, and empowering science-based incubators, India can position itself at the forefront of global technology revolutions – driving impact not just for markets, but for society at large.

(The writer is Chief Executive, STEM Cell at Foundation for Science Innovation and Development, IISc)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Decoding modern-day hieroglyphics

An old letter resurrects a world where language lingered

PULLAT RAMACHANDRAN

The date "Aug 27, 1973" brought a flash from another universe when I stumbled upon a letter my grandfather, M R Menon, had written to his daughter, Chandra — my mother.

Muthachan was a man who took the English language more seriously than the English themselves. Largely self-schooled, he was an obsessive reader and a collector of words. If he came across an unfamiliar one, he wouldn't rest until he had written it down, hunted for its meaning, and deployed it in a sentence with surgical precision.

The letter itself is a masterpiece from the Remington era — typed painstakingly, one click-clack at a time. I love its imperfections: the slightly drunk-looking letters, the faint misalignment, the proud little smudges of whitener where he must have changed his mind after his tenth re-reading. All charm. All soul. Muthachan was his own grammar Nazi.

What he wrote was equally rich — warm, solicitous, detailed — miniature documentaries of everyday life.

Today, we struggle even to type, "Happy Birthday, dear Chandra, may God bless you." It becomes HBDDC-MGBY. Modern-day hieroglyphics. The ancient Egyptians used birds and snakes. We use balloons and cake.

I used to love writing letters. There was a time when I corresponded regularly with my daughters, Kavya and Shruti. Long messages. Thoughtful messages. Then technology entered the chat.

My beautiful, paragraph-writing daughters slowly transformed into emoji-generating, abbreviation-producing machines. Their evolution went like this: "Ok Acha bye love you" to "Ok Acha" to "K Cha", then "K" and finally " " (seen 11:08 am).

I tried keeping up. They moved from WhatsApp to Facebook. I followed. They migrated to Instagram. I migrated. If tomorrow they shift to Mars, I suspect I'll be in a spacesuit behind them, muttering, "*Vidamaatein*!"

But truth be told, nothing in this hyper-connected world compares to that magical sentence: "You've got a letter." Not "You've got a notification." Not "Your phone has 19 pending messages from the apartment WhatsApp group."

Shakespeare, in *Hamlet*, through his character Polonius, said, "Brevity is the soul of wit" (mea culpa! I googled it; I knew the phrase, not its provenance). I am no reader of minds, but I doubt the late playwright had today's severely emasculated, mutilated WhatsApp language in mind. WhatsApp and other social media are places where nuance breathes its last—platforms where an innocuous comment is misread and a social storm ensues.

A physical letter had weight, character, smell and soul. A "ping" has none of that. Just anxiety. Will that romance ever return? Looking at the current state of communication, I suspect not.

But these old letters, like this one from 1973, remind me that we once wrote with intention, attention, and affection.

PS: Aug 27 — by cosmic coincidence — also happens to be the day Geetha and I got married, exactly 6,205 days after the letter was written. Clearly, good things keep happening on this date.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Parliament session: Not enough time to raise important issues

The recently concluded Parliament session saw important bills passed without proper discussion or structured debate. The government, being in a majority, bulldozed legislations with remarkable speed, bringing the bills towards the end of the session after wasting a lot of time initially, without giving the opposition parties enough time to raise important issues and rushing through the measures towards the end and virtually with no proper examination of legislation before being passed in a hurry. This is a subversion of democracy where might is considered acceptable, and issues are looked at as per whims of people in power, not on the merits of the legislation or, after careful examination of the concerns or issues. Bogus claims are made so that the sessions look productive.

V Padmanabhan, Bengaluru

Protect water quality

I wish to draw attention to the rapidly decreasing water quality in Bengaluru, which is a serious public health concern. Lakes across the city are increasingly polluted, turning once-clean water bodies into toxic foaming sites. Many residential areas now rely on tankers supplying questionable water, while groundwater levels continue to fall. Enforcement against illegal dumping and untreated sewage remains weak. I urge the authorities to act before the situation becomes irreversible.

Saniya Ahmed, Bengaluru

Identify vested interests

The revelation that 73-75% of the state's population holds Below Poverty Line cards—the highest in India, while Karnataka has the highest per capita income in India, only indicates failure of governance. This means that free rice and cereals allocated by the government are provided to undeserving people. It is time to identify and address collusion with vested interests involved in this nefarious activity, and to streamline the system so that facilities intended for genuinely deserving people reach them.

H R Bapu Satyanarayana, Bengaluru

Endless ordeal

Endless construction in Bengaluru has turned life into a frustrating obstacle course. Development is meaningless if it constantly sacrifices resident safety and basic quality of life. We need urgent accountability to ensure the city's growth no longer feels like a perpetual disruption.

Niharika Maria Thomas, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

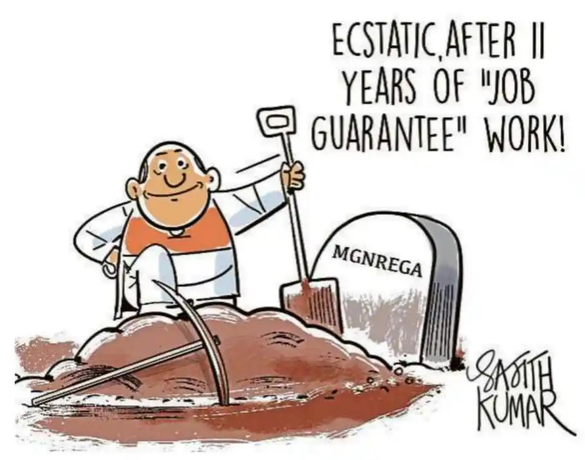
People are fed up with sloganeering. We have to work for Viksit Bharat...

Shashank Mani Tripathi, BJP MP from Deoria

Everything that irritates us about others can lead us to an understanding of ourselves.

Carl Jung

TO BE PRECISE



IN PERSPECTIVE

Turning promises into rights

Karnataka is evaluating its guarantee schemes with evidence. Can stronger systemic support follow?

SOUMYA SWAMINATHAN AND ROUBITHA DAVID

By commissioning independent evaluations of its guarantee schemes and making the findings public, Karnataka is turning social promises into accountable, evidence-driven policy. This transparency reflects a strong commitment to learning, accountability, and results – qualities that are shaping a model for policy across India.

These schemes represent more than welfare; they embody the principle that every citizen has a fundamental right to dignity, care, and security. Moving from charity to entitlement, Karnataka is operationalising the Rights to Health and Care, translating abstract ideals into daily realities for families. When households have assured food security, stable incomes, and access to education and mobility, they create the very conditions in which good health can flourish.

This approach is not only about individual rights; it also contributes to broader development goals. Karnataka's progress on the Sustainable Development Goals shows how these interventions can make a real difference. The state ranks fifth among major states on the SDG India Index 2023-24, scoring 75, up from 72 in 2021. Yet challenges remain, particularly in SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), and SDG 5 (Gender Equality). Guarantee schemes targeting nutrition, mobility, and education align directly with these imperatives, exemplifying the principle of leaving no one behind.

Independent evaluations of five major schemes reveal both promise and limitations. The Shakti Scheme, providing free bus travel for women, has expanded mobility, enabling access to work, education, healthcare, and social life. Mobility, as Amartya Sen noted, is freedom – both economic and social. However, to translate mobility into empowerment, these opportunities must be linked to income-earning opportunities and skills development.

Through Gruha Lakshmi, cash transfers to women heads of households have stabilised consumption and enhanced autonomy. Beneficiaries reported using funds for essentials such as food, healthcare, and education, highlighting women as economic agents rather than dependents. Still, cash support alone will not resolve deeper labour-market inequalities. Upskilling, financial literacy, and livelihood support must complement transfers.

Anna Bhagya, which provides additional foodgrain, has fortified household food security. Diversifying rations to include millets and pulses could boost nutrition and support climate-smart agriculture. Gruha Jyothi, offering up to 200 units of free electricity, has improved comfort, safety, and family well-being. Pairing this with energy-efficiency training could help households manage rising energy demand sustainably.

Finally, *Yuva Nidhi*, a stipend for educated but unemployed youth, provides short-term income support. When combined with mentorship, skills training, and entrepreneurship support, it can convert temporary relief into sustained employability, which is especially vital for young women facing intersecting barriers related to mobility, care responsibilities, and limited job options.

Across these schemes, a truth emerges: access alone does not equal empowerment. When the state shares responsibility for care and household sustenance, women's time and opportunities expand. However, to transform these gains into lasting empowerment, a wider ecosystem of support is essential. Practical gender needs must be linked to strategic gender goals so that access leads to agency.

From schemes to systems

Sustainability depends on strong, integrated public systems. Convergence across health, nutrition, and social protection ensures families experience a seamless ecosystem of care rather than fragmented services.

Karnataka's *Koosina Mane* creche initiative demonstrates this principle. By linking childcare, early learning, and nutrition, it supports both child development and women's livelihoods. Scaled appropriately, such models can advance multiple SDGs simultaneously, making the Right to Care tangible from the youngest citizens to the women who care for them.

Karnataka, like other southern states, faces evolving challenges: a growing burden of non-communicable diseases, climate vulnerabilities across its ten agro-climatic zones, and persistent gender inequities. Research, including studies by the M S Swaminathan Research Foundation, shows climate change amplifies health and social vulnerabilities, particularly for rural women. Guarantee schemes supporting nutrition, livelihoods, and preventive care are therefore central to building resilience.

The true value of this approach lies in its use of evidence. By commissioning evaluations and making them open to public scrutiny, the state signals that research is not an afterthought but a cornerstone of governance. Disseminating findings should spark ongoing conversations between governments, researchers, and communities, ensuring every programme is measured not only by reach but by its impact on lives.

Guarantee schemes, if implemented well, can transform care, mobility, and food security from abstract rights into lived realities. With strong systems, evidence-based policy, and a commitment to convergence and resilience, such initiatives pave the way for entitlements to evolve into empowerment and for human capital to become the foundation of a healthy, productive, and resilient society.

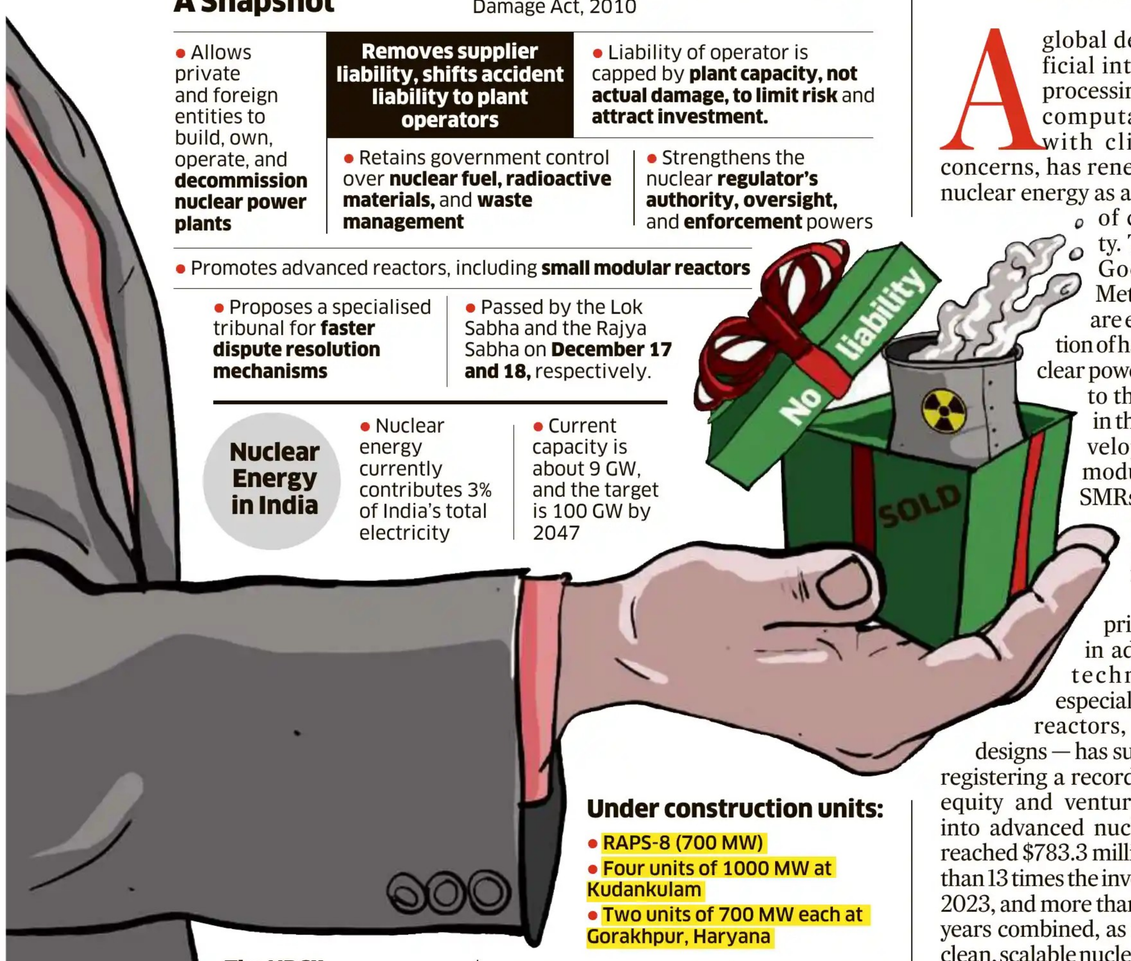
(Soumya is Chairperson, MS Swaminathan Research Foundation and former chief scientist, WHO; Roubitha is Senior Fellow – Public Health and Policy, MS Swaminathan Research Foundation)

New law opens atomic energy sector to private investment, spares suppliers from liability in case of disasters

Nuclear Nudge: Statutes shift, safeguards soften

SHANTI Bill, 2025
A Snapshot

- Replaces the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, and subsumes the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010
- Allows private and foreign entities to build, own, operate, and **decommission nuclear power plants**
- **Removes supplier liability, shifts accident liability to plant operators**
- Liability of operator is capped by **plant capacity, not actual damage, to limit risk** and **attract investment.**
- Retains government control over **nuclear fuel, radioactive materials,** and **waste management**
- Strengthens the nuclear **regulator's authority, oversight,** and **enforcement** powers
- Promotes advanced reactors, including **small modular reactors**
- Proposes a specialised tribunal for **faster dispute resolution mechanisms**
- Passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on **December 17 and 18,** respectively.



Nuclear Energy in India

- Nuclear energy currently contributes 3% of India's total electricity
- Current capacity is about 9 GW, and the target is 100 GW by 2047

Under construction units:

- RAPS-8 (700 MW)
- Four units of 1000 MW at Kudankulam
- Two units of 700 MW each at Gorakhpur, Haryana

The NPCIL...

- Currently operates 25 nuclear reactors
- Most of them are pressurised heavy water reactors
- Total Installed capacity is 8780 MW from 24 reactors; one (RAPS-1) is shut
- 53 times a reactor operated continuously for more than a year without any maintenance. Four times for more than two years
- One reactor at Kaiga (KGS-1) ran continuously for 962 days, signalling excellent safety records
- Seven more reactors with a total capacity of 6100 MW are under various stages of commissioning
- 10 more reactors in fleet mode approved
- Mahi-Banswara Atomic Power Plant, the first fleet mode project, will have 4 units of 700 MW capacity each, first to be ready in six years
- MBRPP is being executed by a joint venture company formed by NPCIL and NTPC
- Other fleet mode projects will be in Kaiga (2 x 700 MW)
- Once all of them are realised, the NPCIL will have 21,980 MW by 2031-32

Other approved sites: Kovvada, Chhaya Mithi Virdi, Jaitapur, Haripur and Bhimpur

Fast Breeder Reactors:

- FBR marks the beginning of the second stage of the **3-stage nuclear programme**
- One prototype **500 MW FBR** is being commissioned at Kalpakkam
- Approval is in place for two more **500 MW FBRs at Kalpakkam**

DH ILLUSTRATION: **DEEPAK HARICHANDAN** COMPILED BY **KALYAN RAY**, DHNS

KALYAN RAY
DH NEWS SERVICE

A global demand for artificial intelligence, data processing and high-end computation, coupled with climate change concerns, has renewed interest in nuclear energy as a 24-hour source of clean electricity. Tech giants like Google, Amazon, Meta and Microsoft are exploring the option of having captive nuclear power plants, thanks to the advancement in the design and development of small modular reactors or SMRs that have lower upfront cost and advanced safety features.

In recent years, private investment in advanced nuclear technologies — especially SMRs, micro-reactors, and next-gen designs — has surged, with 2024 registering a record high as private equity and venture capital flows into advanced nuclear companies reached $783.3 million. This is more than 13 times the investment made in 2023, and more than the previous 15 years combined, as investors bet on clean, scalable nuclear solutions. The momentum continued in 2025 with equity touching the $1.3 billion mark.

With the passage of the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) bill by Parliament, India hopes to jump onto the bandwagon. The government has set a target of 100 GW of nuclear power by 2047, and the state-owned Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited could supply 50%. For the rest, the government would turn to the private players.

Since the private sector was barred in the Atomic Energy Act of 1962, the law was to be changed. Also, the last time, when an effort was made to bring foreign nuclear majors to India after the 2008 Indo-US civil nuclear agreement, a clause on the supplier's liability in the Civil Liability to Nuclear Damage Act 2010 turned out to be an irritant. Both issues have been taken care of in the new Bill that opens up the doors to private business and does away with the contentious clause.

Union Science Minister Jitendra Singh says the government set targets of achieving 22 GW of nuclear energy by 2032; 47 GW by 2037, 67 GW by 2042 and 100 GW by 2047, contributing nearly 10% of India's total energy needs. Indigenous SMRs are being developed under the Rs 20,000 crore Nuclear Energy Mission, and the first five SMRs are to be ready by 2033.

The Indian legal position under the 2010 legislation brought by the Manmohan Singh-led UPA government was a rare one among countries with nuclear power. But it received political support from the opposition parties, including the Left block and the BJP, with late Arun Jaitley and Jaswant Singh arguing in its favour in Parliament. Congress's Jairam Ramesh now accused the Narendra Modi-led government of making a U-turn, but Jitendra Singh said the modification was necessary because the "country lost on international collaboration". The UPA government promised 63 GW of nuclear capacity by 2032 with foreign collaboration. It never happened.

Armed with the new law, the government will scour for private funding, and a few big private companies have evinced interest. According to the Department of Atomic Energy, to operate a nuclear power plant, a private firm must demonstrate "robust financial capacity" and will have the capacity to follow stringent safety measures put forward by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, which received legal backing under the new law. The stringent screening of applications will ensure only the most capable organisation runs the nuclear power plants.

Despite the law, what will haunt the civil nuclear power is its negative public image. Atomic energy is associated with the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings, as well as Chernobyl and Fukushima disasters. Over the years, the DAE didn't do much to engage with the public and communicate. Barely any public consultation on the new law and the U-turn by the government in the Parliament may add to the negativity.

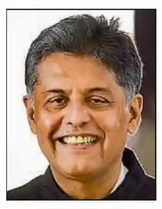
'New law shields suppliers from disaster liability'

As the SHANTI Bill 2025 has been passed by Parliament, senior Congress MP **Manish Tewari** explains to *DH*'s **Shemin Joy** the loopholes in the new nuclear energy law.

Excerpts:

What are your concerns about the SHANTI Bill?

One of the primary objectives is to open up the nuclear sector to private investment. Another is to remove the supplier liability clause, which was arrived at after a consensus across the political spectrum in 2010. It is inexplicable why, at a time when the sector is being opened up to private participation, the supplier's liability clause has been excluded, effectively giving suppliers a free pass. The third is the exemption from insurance cover granted to government-owned or public sector nuclear reactors, which is troublesome. Then, the liability limits are extremely low. This 300 million SDR, which is about USD 417 million, is less than what was granted by the Supreme Court as compensation for the gas disaster in Bhopal. With regard to the storage and the safety of spent fuel, it has been left to rules, regulations or protocols. In fact, the explicit protocol should have been a Schedule to the Bill. There are various other devils in the detail. That was why we had wanted the Bill to be referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee.



Could prior consultations have helped?

In fact, in 2010, since I had led the debate from the Treasury benches, I very distinctly recall that the BJP leaders, like late Sushma Swaraj, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, late Arun Jaitley, Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, late Jaswant Singh and L K Advani, along with the leadership of the Left parties, had insisted very vehemently that supplier liability clause should form a part of the Civil Nuclear Liability Bill. There were consultations and discussions. Unfortunately, that rigour has been missing this time around.

Some MPs have accused the government of bulldozing the Bill. What do you think is the motive behind rushing the Bill through?

That is what completely defies imagination. One more troublesome aspect is the autonomy and independence of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). This extreme hurry in rushing this Bill could have only two reasons. The supplier liability clause was something which many Western companies were not very comfortable with. Is this an attempt to adjust the civilian nuclear architecture to the diktats of foreign companies who fabricate and supply nuclear reactors?

The government argues that the 2010 law was a hindrance, and, for the past 15 years, nothing has happened. Do you think that is a sound argument?

The safeguards have to be very vigorous, and just because somebody is uncomfortable with a regime which provides safety and security to millions, we cannot relax the rigours of something which is so fundamental when you are talking about the entire paradigm of nuclear energy.

The government says that the operator can have his own arrangement with the supplier, but the law will not mandate supplier liability. How do you see that kind of an argument?

Whatever contractual obligations an operator would get into with a supplier, that clause was specifically inserted for the simple reason that the design, fabrication and installation of nuclear reactors is actually something which is going to be preponderantly foreign dependent. When you are liberalising the nuclear sector, that particular clause actually would have helped indemnify even those Indian companies, which may be planning to enter into the civilian nuclear space.

(Full text on *www.deccanherald.com*)

SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

A literary base for grasslands

Researchers who analysed 700 years of Marathi literature argue that India's plains are not human-made ruins, writes **Sudhira H S**

In the film *Dil Chahta Hai*, the three lead actors agree to a pact overlooking the sea at Chapora Fort in Goa, with the dry scrub grassland landscape on the other side. The grassland is also depicted in the film's closing scenes.

For a landscape ecologist, grasslands are striking even in a movie. The arid, rolling plains of the Deccan Plateau, which extend across the states of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana, are engaged in a quiet but intense scientific and cultural battle over the identity of the land itself. For decades, these vast, open spaces, which are dotted with thorny trees and thick grasses, have been officially maligned as "wastelands" or "degraded forests," ecosystems that were supposedly destroyed by human activity like farming and colonial-era timber felling.

Following this flawed logic, the popular, modern solution has been to "fix" them by planting forests where, historically, none may have existed. However, a new study has unearthed a powerful line of evidence that overturns this misconception, as the truth has been hiding in centuries of poetry and folk songs.

PIC COURTESY: SAMARTH B B K.

Falling back on historical write-ups

The research was initiated during a conversation over coffee between two researchers, Ashish N Nerlekar and Digvijay Patil. Ashish Nerlekar is primarily an ecologist, specifically a plant scientist at Michigan State University, while Digvijay Paril is a PhD student in archaeology at the Indian Institute of Science, Education and Research (IISER) at Pune.

Patil's archaeological work involves studying Marathi and Sanskrit texts for references to sacred sites. When Patil mentioned that he kept noticing peculiar plant names in old literary works, Nerlekar didn't take long to recognise that these names referred to modern-day savanna species. Soon, both realised they had stumbled upon an untapped historical archive.

They meticulously reviewed 28 excerpts from Marathi literature spanning seven centuries from the 13th to the 20th, including biographies of saints, narrative poems, and folk songs called ov s. Their goal was to identify georeferenced natural descriptions, thereby placing a scientific spotlight on locations mentioned by medieval bards and poets.

They ended up undertaking an ecological detective work using a literary time machine of sorts to dive into the past. They integrated rigorous ecological data with ancient Marathi literature, demonstrating that these tropical savannas are not ruined or degraded forests but rather ancient, natural ecosystems that have persisted for at least 700–800 years.

What they found was a consistently vivid picture of an open-canopy landscape dominated by grasses and specific thorny trees, a description that stands in stark contrast to the dense, closed-canopy forests people often romanticise as the past. As Nerlekar put it, "It's fascinating that something hundreds of years old could so closely match what is around today and contrast so much with what people romanticise the past landscape to be."

One of the earliest and most profound findings comes from a 13th-century biography of the religious figure Cakradhara, in which he identifies the hivara tree (Vachellia leucophloea). This iconic thorny acacia tree, recognisable by its pale yellow bark, is used as a powerful symbol for the cycle of death and reincarnation.

Critically, the hivara tree is a typical savanna species, a sun-loving species that thrives in open, grassy plains and would not grow under a closed forest canopy. The fact that it was prominent enough to be a cultural landmark in the 13th century strongly suggests that the landscape was already an open savanna at that time.

The researchers categorised 44 wild plant species mentioned in the literature and found that the majority (27 species) were savanna indicators, with only a small fraction being forest indicators.

They have tried deciphering the medieval Marathi and Sanskrit terms like vana or jangala, which are often translated simply as 'forest' or 'jungle' today, actually referred more broadly to wild, unsettled lands and places that included scrublands, grasslands, and savannas. The cowherders' arrival in search of grass and the presence of species such as the sun-loving tara (caper bush), mentioned in a 15th-century account, paint a consistent picture of an open, grass-filled biome.

Matching with evidence

The researchers used this literary data to triangulate with other lines of scientific evidence, notably the fossil record, pollen data, and genetics. They note that the remains of grazers such as grass-feeding hippos and antelope species such as the Blackbuck, which survive only on open plains, date back tens of thousands of years. And, fossilised pollen indicates that grasses, a reliable signature of savannas, have been continuously present in the region, despite natural shifts in tree communities over thousands of years.

Molecular phylogenies of endemic plants and lizards in the region confirm a rapid diversification event that coincided with global aridification millions of years ago, thereby establishing the antiquity of the savanna biome. Thus, every line of inquiry from the cultural memory stored in poems to the genetic code of its wildlife rejects the idea of a recent, human-caused ruin. It confirms that the savannas are not degraded forests, but a resilient, ancient ecosystem.

This finding carries enormous weight for conservation. When a savanna is mistaken for a degraded forest, the typical policy response is to plant trees, often using non-native species. This practice destroys the natural open habitat, threatens endangered species such as the Indian Wolf, and disrupts the ecosystem's carbon storage capacity.

Savannas are excellent carbon sinks because their carbon is stored securely underground in their extensive root systems, rather than above ground in fragile trees. They also provide crucial fodder, indirectly supporting an estimated 20% of the global human population.

The good news is that human activities have not been as damaging as previously thought, resulting in the classification of wastelands or degraded lands. Therefore, our official classification system needs to correct the colonial outlook that sees these natural ecosystems as wastelands or degraded lands.

(The writer is with Research Matters)

DID YOU KNOW?

Anthropause may impact beak size

The anthorpause that followed the Covid-19 pandemic disrupted social behaviours. Scientists have now reported that such a prolonged stoppage of human activities has also led to birds changing their physical appearance, which may be due to an "adaptive sensitivity".

For decades, dark-eyed junco, a forest-dwelling sparrow, inhabited Los Angeles, including the sprawling campus of the University of California. The beaks of the city-dwelling birds are little different from their wild land counterparts. Urban juncos have shorter, thicker beaks, possibly due to differences in their diets. In addition to their natural food sources, the birds living on the UCLA campus also consume substantial amounts of food waste left by students since the pandemic began. The classes moved online, and the campus became empty.

Scientists in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology were monitoring juncos as part of their long-term study of breeding behaviours. They observed that birds hatched during the pandemic-related restriction period had beak shapes and sizes different from those of birds hatched before and after the restriction-related pause in human activity. Birds born during the pandemic period had beaks similar to those of forest-dwelling species. The juncos born in 2021 and 2022 had longer, slimmer beaks that are more atypical of wild land species. But birds born after the pandemic, when students returned to the campus, had the same old short beaks. While the cause of such a rapid shift in bill morphology remains unclear, the findings suggest high adaptive sensitivity in an urban bird population to the cessation and resumption of human activity.

"We speculate that food waste may drive the adaptive evolution of a more generalist bill shape in urban juncos, which rapidly shifts at a population level in response to resource change. Future work should determine how bill shape varies with foraging, fitness, and genetics in juncos," UCLA scientists Pamela Yeh and Eleanor Diamant reported in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

There may be other factors, such as the urban environment, as foraging on hard surfaces may have contributed to shortening the bill. The scientists said Covid-19-induced restrictions provided them with an opportunity to test the extent to which human activities affect other species. Earlier, it was observed that other birds reduced the volume of their songs in the absence of human activity.

-Kalyan Ray

AGENDA ACHIEVED: Parliament adjourned sine die; both Houses record 92 hours of proceedings

Winter session wraps with high productivity

SESSION IN NUMBERS

Lok Sabha productivity at **111%**

Rajya Sabha productivity at **121%**

10 bills introduced, **8 passed** in Lok Sabha

- **408 urgent matters raised;** Speaker **Om Birla** highlights active participation
- Pollution discussion stalled due to Oppn disruptions during **VB-G RAM G Bill passage**

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Parliament was adjourned sine die on Friday, with the Lok Sabha recording 111% productivity and the Rajya Sabha 121%.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said that across the 15 sittings held this winter session, the House conducted 92 hours of proceedings. Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said that the government was satisfied with the productivity, though a scheduled discussion on pollution could not be held due to Opposition disruptions.

In his speech in the Rajya Sabha, Chairman CP Radhakrishnan said the Upper House also functioned for 92 hours during the session.

"In this session, 10 government bills were introduced in the Lok Sabha and 8 were passed. The discussion on 150 years of Vande Mataram lasted 11 hours and 32 minutes, with 65 members participating. The debate on 'Electoral Reforms' ran for 13 hours and saw the participation of 63 members," Lok Sabha Speaker Birla said. He added that 408 matters of urgent public importance were raised during the session.

The Vande Mataram discussion was initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Lok Sabha and by Home Minister Amit Shah in the Rajya Sabha, where it went on for 12 hours and 49 minutes, with 81 members taking part. The debate on 'Electoral Reforms' was concluded by the Home Minister in the Lok Sabha. In the Rajya Sabha, it was wrapped up by the Leader of the House, with 57 members participating over a total of 10 hours and 37 minutes.

Rijiju said the government was satisfied with the session's productivity.

"The session allowed us to conduct everything on the government's agenda. The only important issue we could not take up was the discussion on pollution, which the Opposition had demanded. However, they disrupted the House during the passage of the VB-G RAM G Bill, and so the discussion could not take place," Rijiju said. He added that three members, including the Congress' Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and the BJP's Bansuri Swaraj, had filed motions seeking a debate on the matter.

The key bills that saw passage this session include the Manipur Goods and Services Tax (Second Amendment) Bill 2025, Central Excise (Amendment) Bill 2025, Health Security se National Security Cess Bill 2025, Appropriation (No. 4) Bill 2025, Repealing and Amending Bill 2025, Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Bill 2025, Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India Bill 2025, and the Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Bill 2025.

Two more bills — the Vikshit Bharat Siksha Adhikshan Bill and the Securities Market Code Bill — were sent to standing committees. "Both will be examined by a Joint Parliamentary Committee, which will be announced shortly," Rijiju said. He added that the Opposition wanted a scrutiny of the VB-G RAM G Bill, but the government did not agree to it.

BJP ran away from pollution debate: Cong

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Congress on Friday described the just-concluded Winter session of Parliament as one that started with the Union government "insulting" Rabindranath Tagore and ended with "insulting" Mahatma Gandhi, while accusing the ruling BJP of running away from a debate on air pollution.

Congress general secretary (communication) Jairam Ramesh, also the party's Rajya Sabha chief whip, told reporters that the government ignored demands to send the VB-G RAM G Bill and the SHANTI Bill to Parliamentary panels.

Jairam Ramesh

Separately, he said on X: "All new A.C.R.O.N.Y.M MANTRALAYA - Administrative Commission for Renaming Old Schemes -- New Yet Meaningless. The PM is suffering from a case of acute acronym-itis."

Calling it a "pradushan kaleen session (air pollution session)", he said the Congress was absolutely ready for a debate on it, but the government "ran away" from it, rebutting Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju's claims that put the onus on the main Opposition party.

He also said: "MGNREGA was the employment of last resort. That has ended. Who will give jobs, where the jobs will be, and what type of jobs are there will now be decided by the Union government."

The Congress leader also claimed that after MGNREGA, next in line to see an end would be the RTI Act, followed by the Forest Rights Act, Land Acquisition Act, and the National Food Security Act.

Privilege motion against Opposition MPs

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Privilege proceedings against several Opposition members have been initiated in this session on grounds of violating Parliamentary propriety.

They include a privilege complaint against Congress Rajya Sabha member Renuka Choudhary for bringing a stray dog to Parliament, another against TMC Lok Sabha member Kirti Azad for smoking an e-cigarette in the House, and one against eight Opposition MPs for disrupting the House during discussions on the Viksit Bharat—Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) or VB G RAM G Bill.

On Friday, the last day of the winter session, BJP MP Nishikant Dubey filed a privilege complaint against eight opposition MPs — including Hibi Eden, Dean Kuriakose, Jothimani, S Murasoli, and Sashikanth Senthil — for standing up on the benches and tearing papers during discussions on the VB G RAM G Bill. Dubey claimed they would be suspended by the next session.

BJP MP Sanjay Jaiswal filed a privilege motion against the same MPs.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla conducts proceedings in the House during the Winter session of Parliament on Friday. PTI

Parliament sources said a committee would be formed to take action. "The procedures will be followed, a committee will be formed, and it will examine the facts. The Speaker does not want to be seen as someone who punishes MPs but as someone who tries to resolve matters via dialogue," an official said.

Earlier this week, BJP MP Anurag Thakur filed a complaint against TMC member Kirti Azad for allegedly smoking an e-cigarette on the floor of the Lok Sabha. Thakur had stood up and complained to Speaker Om Birla about Azad; visuals of Azad vaping are now publicly available.

Parliament sources said the privilege committee would take up this matter as well. Smoking of e-cigarettes is banned in India.

Meanwhile, TMC MP Saugata Roy was seen smoking outside Makar Dwar. In India, public smoking is prohibited as well.

A third complaint is expected to be taken up against Renuka, who brought a stray dog to Parliament.

Oppn continues protest against G RAM G bill

100 days work	**125 days** of work
Work guaranteed for any rural household	Work guaranteed only in the notified areas
Demand-driven	Supply-driven
Centre pays **100% wages**	Expenditure to be shared **60:40 (Centre: State)**
Centre pays **75%** of material cost	**Centre sets a budget;** anything beyond this, the state has to pay
Gram Sabhas decide on work	**Viksit Bharat National Rural Infrastructure Stack** to guide planning
One can demand work **any time of year**	States to **notify up to 60 days during peak agriculture seasons** when no VB-G RAM G work happens

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The 'VB-G RAM G Bill' dominated the last day of Parliament's Winter Session on Friday, with Congress holding a silent protest and Trinamool Congress sitting on a 12-hour protest that started soon after the draft law was passed in Rajya Sabha.

Opposition MPs continued to voice their concerns over replacing MGNREGA outside Parliament, though they did not disrupt or protest proceedings in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, which wound up the session's business in minutes of assembling.

Outside, Congress MPs, including Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, staged a silent protest holding Mahatma Gandhi's portrait just in front of 'Makar Dwar' in Parliament House, while Trinamool MPs, who were sitting at a distance at the entrance of 'Samvidhan Sadan', sang Rabeendra Sangeet.

The MPs were protesting against "bulldozing" the 'VB-G RAM G Bill', ignoring their requests for sending it to a parliamentary panel for scrutiny. They were also protesting against the omission of Mahatma Gandhi's name from the Bill's nomenclature. Trinamool MPs spent the night at the entrance of Samvidhan Sadan, with posters of Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore. A banner at the protest read "Mahatma Gandhi NREGA. Gurudev gave the title Mahatma".

"We are sitting in dharna because of the manner in which the MGNREGA Act has been destroyed by the Modi government, and it has been replaced by the 'VB-GRG Bill'. It was given to us just five hours before the government introduced it in the House. The Modi government is using bulldozer tactics to push through legislation," Trinamool's Sagarika Ghose said.

Budget likely to be presented on a Sunday

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Union Budget for 2026-27 is likely to be presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on a Sunday, as February 1 falls on the weekend.

While a final decision on the matter is pending, it is unlikely the government will defer the date, said Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju.

By parliamentary tradition, the budget has always been announced on February 1 since 2017. Before that, it was presented on January 31.

Rijiju indicated that the government is unlikely to break the tradition.

"A decision will be taken by the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs at an appropriate time," he said.

While Parliament has been convened on several Saturdays in the past, there are also precedents of the budget being presented on a Sunday. In 1999, then finance minister Yashwant Sinha presented the Budget on February 28, which fell on a Sunday. Parliament also convened on May 12, 2013, to commemorate the 60th anniversary of its sittings.

In the years 2001, 2004, 2015 and 2016, Parliament was convened on Saturdays.

In 2016, when Muslim League member E Ahmed passed away on budget day, there was speculation that the budget might be deferred.

"We checked with the office of Arun Jaitley, who was then finance minister, to confirm if the budget would indeed be presented. He said he was about to leave his residence to announce the budget," a Parliament official said.

In 2017, Jaitley introduced a reform in the budget presentation process — the separate Railway Budget was scrapped, and the date was shifted to February 1. The change was intended to ensure that the new budget could be implemented from April 1, marking the start of the fiscal year.

PM's 8 posts on X most reposted, liked on social media platform

NEW DELHI, PTI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's eight comments or pictures have become the most liked posts among the top 10 on the social media platform X in the last 30 days, including his photo with Russian President Vladimir Putin when both leaders travelled together in a car from Delhi's IGI airport, officials said.

The eight posts on X together had 1,60,700 reposts and 14.76 lakh likes, thus becoming the only politician featured among the top 10 most liked and reposted handles on the platform. "The X (formerly Twitter) has a new feature. It shows the most-liked tweets in the last month in a country. For India, in the last 30 days, the top eight out of 10 most liked tweets are of PM Modi. No other politician features in the top 10," an official said.

The photo of PM Modi travelling together in a car with Putin after his arrival on December 4 had over 34,000 reposts and 214000 likes, the highest among the eight posts of the PM.

T'gana: 41 Maoists surrender amid rift over deployments

Cops say Naxals' arbitrary nature led to logistical issues

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

In a major blow to the outlawed CPI (Maoist), 41 underground cadres — including six senior functionaries of Company/Platoon Committee Member and Divisional Committee Member rank (CyPCMs/DVCMs) — surrendered before Telangana Director General of Police (DGP) B Shivadhar Reddy on Friday. They also reportedly handed over 24 firearms.

Among those who surrendered was Erragolla Ravi alias Santhosh, a key member of the Telangana State Committee and head of the Mancherial division, who had been underground for 24 years.

The police noted that 11 of the surrendered cadres were members of the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army's (PLGA) Military One battalion, once commanded by Maoist Commander Madvi Hidma.

Their surrender marked a significant depletion in the organisation's operational strength in Telangana.

According to the police, internal dissatisfaction has been rapidly growing within CPI (Maoist) ranks.

The leadership, they said, has been arbitrarily deploying cadres to unfamiliar and distant areas without their consent, often to regions where they lack basic geographical knowledge and local support networks. These reportedly forced relocations have caused severe mobility constraints, logistical hardships, and shortages of essentials, pushing many cadres into frustration and disillusionment.

GROWING DISSENT

- Surrendered cadres include 6 senior functionaries
- 11 of the cadres members of the PLGA's Military One battalion
- Police say dissent growing over arbitrary deployments
- Sources said party leadership has instructed cadres to move out of Ch'garh until March 31, 2026, the Centre's deadline for eliminating Maoism

Other reasons

"Persistent pressure from security forces, the drying up of logistical support systems, and the erosion of local cooperation have sharply restricted Maoist mobility and weakened their operational capabilities," DGP Shivadhar Reddy said.

"Ideological divergence and deep-rooted discontent between the leadership and ground-level cadres, coupled with internal rifts, factionalism, and disputes among formations, have accelerated the decline," he added.

Harsh living conditions, deteriorating health, prolonged separation from families, and waning faith in the party's ideology are further prompting members to abandon the armed struggle and surrender.

CAG reveals cracks in rural electrification story

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has flagged significant deficiencies in the rollout of two flagship rural electrification programmes — the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) and the Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (SAUBHAGYA) — citing widespread delays and procedural lapses.

In a performance audit report tabled in the just-concluded Parliament session, the CAG criticised the nodal agency, Rural Electrification Corporation (REC).

Launched in 2014, DDUGJY was designed to improve power supply duration for rural consumers, strengthen distribution infrastructure and complete pending works from the earlier Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY).

The scheme had an approved outlay of Rs 75,893 crore, with central budgetary support of Rs 63,027 crore, and closed with an actual expenditure of Rs 64,495 crore (including Rs 45,025 crore in government aid).

PUNCHING HOLES

- **CAG report highlights lapses in DDUGJY and SAUBHAGYA schemes**
- Approved outlay Rs 75,893 crore, actual spend Rs 64,495 crore
- **81% projects delayed; 494 of 605 contracts across 24 states and 2 UTs**
- Rs 541 crore released before agreements and agency appointments

The audit highlighted major implementation flaws, including delays in awarding contracts for 494 out of 605 projects (over 81%) across 24 states and two Union Territories.

The State Level Standing Committee (SLSC), as a key stakeholder in implementation, was tasked with recommending detailed project reports (DPRs) for approval, monitoring progress, ensuring quality control and resolving issues related to sanctioned projects.

However, instances were observed where DPRs were submitted to the REC without SLSC recommendations.

The CAG noted that the DPRs were not based on detailed field surveys and were later found to contain under- or over-estimations of quantities relating to village and household electrification, feeder separation and system strengthening in projects.

On the SAUBHAGYA scheme, the audit report noted that the initiative was launched in October 2017 to provide last-mile connectivity and electricity connections to all un-electrified households. The estimated target was 300 lakh households.

The SAUBHAGYA dashboard claimed 100% achievement of this target with 262.84 lakh households electrified by March 2019. However, of these, only 151.60 lakh households were actually electrified under SAUBHAGYA.

All 25 states where the scheme was implemented declared that 100% household electrification had been achieved between November 2018 and March 2019.

PM Narendra Modi with WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus during the closing ceremony of the 2nd WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine, in New Delhi. PTI

NIA raids Delhi blast accused's house in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, DHNS: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday searched rented accommodation of Molvi Irfan, one of the alleged accused in the November 10 Red Fort blast case, in Srinagar, signaling a widening probe into the alleged support network behind the attack, sources said.

The search was carried out at Irfan's rented residence at Naik-Bagh, Nowgam, on the outskirts of Srinagar. The operation was conducted by an NIA team with assistance from local police.

Sources said investigators suspect that Irfan was in contact with key accused involved in the planning and execution of the blast in Delhi. The agency is examining his alleged role, including possible logistical assistance, communication facilitation and ideological links with the perpetrators.

Officials said the focus of the probe has expanded beyond the direct executors of the attack to identify facilitators and support structures that may have operated discreetly across states.

Apex court extends police custody of Telangana intelligence ex-chief

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Friday extended the custodial interrogation of former Telangana Special Intelligence Bureau (SIB) chief T Prabhakar Rao, who is an accused in the phone-tapping case, till December 25.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and R Mahadevan rejected a contention by Rao's counsel that 12 hours of interrogation were meant to break his spirit. It declined to relax the hours of questioning, saying he was a seasoned person and could withstand it.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the state, argued that Rao had surrendered but was not cooperating. Mehta also submitted a status report in the court and sought an extension of police custody by a week to complete the interrogation.

He said Rao had been keeping an illegal surveillance of targeted individuals under the guise of tracking Marxists. He claimed Rao was trying to destroy the data and remove the evidence.

Senior advocate Ranjeet Kumar, representing Rao, submitted that his client was being harassed in the name of interrogation. He told the bench that Rao was being questioned from 10 am to 10 pm for the past seven days. The court fixed the matter for further hearing on January 16 next year.

Row erupts in Andhra over PPP medical college plan

HYDERABAD, DHNS

A fierce political row has erupted in Andhra Pradesh over the state government's decision to establish medical colleges and hospitals under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. While the ruling TDP-led NDA government insists the initiative will strengthen public healthcare without straining the exchequer, the Opposition YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) has denounced it as "privatisation in disguise" and mounted a statewide agitation.

Over the past week, the YSRCP has carried out a campaign claiming to have collected one crore signatures against the PPP plan.

On Thursday, party president and former chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy submitted the signatures to Governor S Abdul Nazeer, urging him to direct the government to withdraw the proposal. Reddy alleged the model would commercialise healthcare and burden the poor.

The TDP maintains that ownership will remain with the government and free public health services will not be compromised.

Political slugfest

- **Andhra's medical** colleges at the heart of a political storm
- **Jagan submits** one crore signatures opposing PPP model in medical colleges
- **YSRCP calls** it 'privatisation in disguise'
- **TDP defends** PPP as cost-saving and efficiency-driven

The state sanctioned 17 new medical colleges between 2020 and 2021 at an estimated cost of Rs 8,480 crore. Of these, six began operations in the 2023-24 and 2024-25 academic years. The remaining 10 are still incomplete. The previous government spent Rs 1,550 crore on them over four years.

An official from the CM's Office said delays made it clear the projects would not be completed within a reasonable timeframe, prompting the decision to adopt the PPP model.

The approach aims to harness private-sector efficiency, ensure faster completion, and save about Rs 3,700 crore in initial costs and Rs 500 crore annually in operations.

Protest in Tripura against B'desh leader's statement

Demands strong diplomatic response to 'divisive', 'anti-India' remarks

THE SEVEN SISTERS (NORTH EAST) IS ONE
WE CONDEMN ALL ATTEMPTS TO DIVIDE US
INDIA IS UNDIVIDED
INDIA'S UNITY IS NON-NEGOTIABLE
WE ARE ONE NORTH EAST

Supporters of Tipra Motha Party protest at the Bangladesh Assistant High Commission in Tripura's Agartala on Friday. PTI

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Members of Tripura Youth Federation (TYF), the youth wing of TIPRA Motha, an ally of the ruling BJP in Tripura, on Friday staged a protest in front of the Bangladesh Assistant High Commissioner's office at Agartala on Friday against a "divisive and derogatory" statement towards the Northeastern region by a politician in the neighbouring nation recently.

With Indian flags in their hands, the TYF members raised slogans against Bangladeshi leaders and demanded strong diplomatic measures to counter such "anti-India statements".

During a rally in protest against the attack on prominent July Uprising leader Sharif Osman Hadi, who later succumbed to gunshot wounds, National Citizen Party (NCP) leader Hasnat Abdullah had threatened to split the seven sisters of the Northeast from India and provide shelter to separatist leaders of the region.

"Bangladesh came into being in 1971 only because of the Indian government and our forces. Now they are treating us like enemies and showing disrespect to our sovereignty. Such behaviour is unacceptable," TYF President Suraj Debbarma said during the protest.

West Tripura Superintendent of Police (SP) Namit Pathak said that Tripura State Rifles (TSR) and CRPF personnel have been deployed to provide security to Bangladesh Assistant High Commission.

"Adequate security arrangements have been made to handle the situation," he said.

Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma also reacted sharply and condemned the statement.

The protest was staged hours after fresh violence broke out in Bangladesh following the death of a young leader, who had led the uprising in July, which forced Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina flee to India and take shelter.

Assets of Yuvraj, Sonu Sood, others attached in betting case

NEW DELHI, PTI: Assets of former Indian cricketers Yuvraj Singh and Robin Uthappa apart from that of ex TMC MP Mimi Chakraborty and actor Sonu Sood have been attached by the ED in an "illegal" betting app linked money laundering case estimated to be worth more than Rs 1,000 crore, official sources said Friday.

Yuvraj Singh

The properties of actor Neha Sharma, Bengali actor Ankush Hazra and Meera Rautela, the mother of model Urvashi Rautela, have also been attached after the federal probe agency issued a provisional order the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), according to the sources.

These include assets worth about Rs 1 crore of Sood, Rs 59 lakh of Chakraborty, Rs 2.5 crore of Yuvraj Singh, Rs 1.26 crore of Sharma, Rs 8.26 lakh of Uthappa, Rs 47 lakh of Hazra and Rs 2.02 crore of Rautela's mother, the sources said.

All these celebrities were questioned by the ED in the past and these assets have been categorised as the "proceeds of crime" (illicit money under the PMLA) of the alleged illegal betting app named 1xbet registered in Curacao.

The agency had sometime ago attached assets worth Rs 11.14 crore of former cricketers Shikhar Dhawan and Suresh Raina as part of this investigation.

SC refuses to quash FIR for online post against PM Modi

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

LEGAL TROUBLE

- SC declines to extend relief to B'luru resident
- Says fundamental right brazenly abused
- Petitioner says only reposted content
- Claims Gujarat police reached his house sans warrant and took him

The Supreme Court on Friday declined to quash an FIR against a Bengaluru resident for a social media post against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi declined to entertain a plea challenging the lodging of an FIR against Gurudath Shetty for a critical social media post against the PM.

Shetty faced offences under Section 336(4) and Section 79 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). "The petitioner has brazenly abused the fundamental right of free speech and expression. We cannot extend any discretion or relief at this stage," the bench said.

However, the court clarified that the petitioner is at liberty to approach the appropriate jurisdictional high court to seek remedies.

Petitioner's counsel urged the bench to grant a seven-day protection to enable him to approach the jurisdictional HC.

Shetty's counsel submitted that he was willing to give an unconditional apology. "My apprehension is that the moment I reach Gujarat, they will add some non-bailable offence and arrest me," the counsel said. The counsel submitted that he was not the author of the online post in question and had merely reposted it with a question mark.

In the plea, Shetty claimed that on November 10, the Gujarat Police had reached his residence in Bengaluru without any warrant, and he was forcibly taken in a car. He said that he was released at midnight and was served with a notice under Section 35 BNSS to appear before the Gujarat Police investigating officer.

Bondi Beach shooter visited Hyderabad six times since 2000: Police

HYDERABAD, DHNS: One of the gunmen involved in the Bondi Beach massacre in Australia, Sajid Akram, had visited Hyderabad six times between 2000 and 2022, Telangana DGP B Shivadhar Reddy said on Friday.

According to the DGP, Akram first travelled to Australia in 1998 in search of better prospects and subsequently visited Hyderabad in 2000, 2004, 2009, 2012, 2016, and most recently in 2022. His extended family continues to live in Al-Hasnath Colony in the Tolichowki area of Hyderabad.

Reddy said the state police verified Akram's antecedents only after learning that he held an Indian passport. "Once it was established that the suspect had Indian nationality, we verified his travel and background details," he said.

Providing further details during a press conference while answering a question, the police chief said Akram had visited India in June 2012 and again in 2016 to settle property-related matters.

His most recent visit in 2022 was to see his mother and sister. In 2009, following his father's death, he travelled to Hyderabad but did not attend the funeral. His first visit after moving to Australia was in 2000, when he came to meet his family accompanied by his just-wedded European wife.

He clarified that although Akram has familial roots in Hyderabad, the Bondi Beach attack has no connection whatsoever to any activities or individuals in the city.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

THIS IS FREDDY AND FRIEDA
HAVE YOU EVER CATERED A FERRET WEDDING?
NO, BUT WE FEED EVERYBODY!
FREDDY INSISTS ON CHOCOLATE CAKE!
AND FRIEDA ONLY LIKES STRAWBERRY!
WE CAN MAKE A MINI CAKE FOR EACH OF THEM
YOU SAID THIS JOB WOULD NEVER BE BORING
IF IT WEREN'T FOR ALL OF OUR WACKY CUSTOMERS I'D HAVE TO CLOSE UP SHOP

Hagar The Horrible

WHERE'S THE RECEIPT FOR ALL OF THOSE NEW CLOTHES?
GRAB IT! IT'S IN MY POCKET NEXT TO A BAG OF PEANUT BRITTLE!
CRUNCH CRUNCH CRUNCH

Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO OWN A GOOD WATCHDOG?
ISN'T THIS THE SORT OF DOG YOU'D LIKE TO HAVE WITH YOU IF YOU HAD TO GO SOMEPLACE AT NIGHT?
I GUESS SO
I SURE WOULDN'T WANT TO BE SEEN IN THE DAYLIGHT WITH HIM!

Marvin

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ROGYL

AEWRF

NRHUKS

BFCRIA

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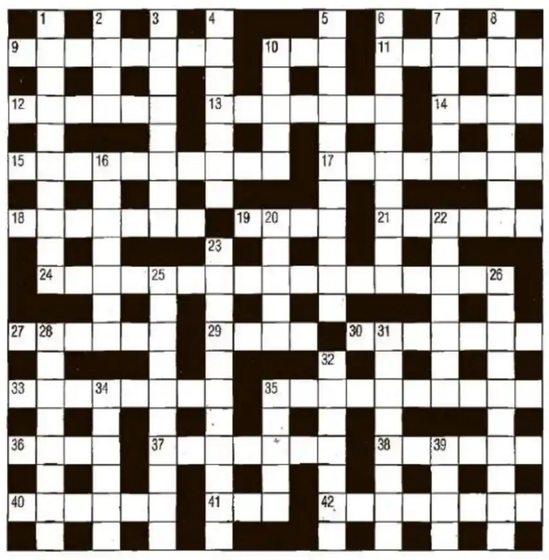
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

A " ○○○○ - ○ - ○○○○○○ "

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: QUILT AHEAD POWDER FATHER
Answer: After years of being good friends, the two sea otters began to — DRIFT APART

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 4019



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
9 Ram home (5,3)
10 A light note (3)
11 Make it possible to produce a bean with little top and tail (6)
12 Exhales noisily and drinks (6)
13 Come out and call back at a quarter past (7)
14 Don't stand up to pressure, you grant (4)
15 Don't bother to take a holiday on one's own (5,5)
17 Made it clear the wheel had a part missing (5,3)
18 Rang – that's the whole point – did ring (7)
19 Backing strikes you fight (4)
21 She's very tall – a fabulous woman! (6)
24 Being brave in weeding out something troublesome? (8,3,6)
27 Plied with a lot, to drink, gives back the gun (6)
29 Rear a deer (4)
30 "The treatment," they say crossly, "is included" (7)
33 Vessel the companion had boarded earlier (8)
35 The re-opening is a revelation (10)
36 A fortune? The sauce! (4)
37 Get to greet the guests (7)
38 A great big metal bar? (6)
40 Again think you can restore yourself to favour (6)
41 See it sounds like a vote in your favour (3)
42 Tell you how much time you've got? (8)

DOWN
1 The yelling from below, object about (10)
2 Take it – it's a soft toy (4)
3 Renegade having a spot, perhaps, to eat, out (8)
4 Even prepared to cut and wrap it up in (7)
5 Mismatched, as the patients in the ward are? (3-8)
6 Until now, therefore, playing a round in (10)
7 A complication to contend with (6)
8 Prefers to incorporate a number of tastes (8)
10 Having a share in? You bet! (5)
16 Brave figure: a Latin revolutionary (7)
20 Assumed to be standing down (3,2)
22 Yields and comes back (7)
23 A trendy individual, as is typical (2,9)
25 A tot, for instance, or the mum or dad (10)
26 Feel it's what the greenhorn lacks (10)
28 Apt to be banked (8)
31 Very keen, though it's torment, having a flair for (8)
32 Because, per se, it means "to defame" (7)
34 Beginning with the passe group (6)
35 Hit the ball with vim and vigour (5)
39 Satisfy – only just (4)

ACROSS
9 Unskilled worker (8)
10 Wildebeest (3)
11 Gas (6)
12 Obstruct (6)
13 High mountain (7)
14 Shade of blue (4)
15 Honour (10)
17 Break (8)
18 Eyeglass (7)
19 Stylish (4)
21 Foot part (6)
24 Hidden storage space (6,11)
27 List of charges (6)
29 Orderly (4)
30 Shipping hazard (7)
33 Canine (3,5)
35 Pouring heavily (10)
36 Small car (4)
37 Unrest (7)
38 Plump (6)
40 Computer criminal, informally (6)
41 Barrel (3)
42 Branch of mathematics (8)

DOWN
1 Concordant (10)
2 A few (4)
3 Eastern (8)
4 Liberty (7)
5 Shallow (11)
6 Gainsay (10)
7 Young swan (6)
8 Contrary (8)
10 Avarice (5)
16 Small dumplings (7)
20 Moist and warm (5)
22 Sweet powder (7)
23 Thick soup (6,5)
25 Insolence (10)
26 Worn (10)
28 Nonstandard (8)
31 Duress (8)
32 Set of three works (7)
34 Difficult (6)
35 Prickle (5)
39 Second-hand (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12313

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Bream 6, Moors 9, Man-aged 10, I-Deal 11, N-ift-Y 12, Peca-n 13, Baronet 15, Mrs. 17, Open 18, Dec-E-NT 19, (I love) Paris 20, T-Ravel 22, Sari 24, He-y 25, Fiction 26, Score 27, Sarah 28, Se-a-ts 29, Lean-tos 30, I'd-led 31, Us-ury
DOWN: 2, Redcap 3, A-ma-zo-n 4, Mal 5, Car-E-t 6, Men-aces 7, Odin 8, Return 12, Pen-Al 13, Bo-O-th 14, Rep-ay 15, Menai 16, Stain 18, Dixie 19, Perched 21, Reward (rev.) 22, Stress 23, Rotter 25, F-rank 26, Sale 28, So-u

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Chute 6, Opera 9, Restore 10, Rival 11, Grant 12, Sweat 13, Shrimps 15, Bid 17, Otic 18, Divide 19, Logic 20, Aegean 22, Solo 24, SAS 25, Melanin 26, Opted 27, Beano 28, Ditty 29, Contain 30, Ashen 31, Meant
DOWN: 2, Height 3, Tragic 4, Eel 5, Stows 6, Organic 7, Pert 8, Rancid 12, Spoon 13, Sofas 14, Rings 15, Bison 16, Demon 18, Diced 19, Lampoon 21, Easels 22, Saline 23, Listen 25, Meets 26, Once 28, Dim

◆SU-DO-KU-6782◆

		4	8					1
8		1		4			9	3
	6			3				
		6	9					
	3	2				5	7	
					7	3		
				8			2	
	5			6		8		7
2					1	4		

hard

SOLUTION TO 6781

9	3	2	1	6	8	4	7	5
8	7	6	5	4	9	1	3	2
1	5	4	2	7	3	6	8	9
2	1	3	6	9	7	5	4	8
6	4	5	3	8	1	9	2	7
7	9	8	4	2	5	3	6	1
3	8	7	9	1	6	2	5	4
4	6	1	7	5	2	8	9	3
5	2	9	8	3	4	7	1	6

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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I1 T1 D2 R1 E1 A1 N1 — Double Word Score
I1 I1 D2 R1 G2 S1 E1
L1 T1 L1 A1 A1 N1 G2
E1 N1 X8 A1 A1 S1 I1 — 1st Letter Triple

RACK 1
RACK 2
RACK 3
RACK 4

PAR SCORE 140-150
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

F4 U1 R1 O1 R1 S1
F4 A1 M3 I1 S1 H4
M3 E1 A1 S1 U1 R1 E1
S1 L1 E1 E1 P3 Y4

RACK 1 = 9
RACK 2 = 17
RACK 3 = 68
RACK 4 = 33
JUDD'S TOTAL 127

PAR SCORE 80-90

HITORI-3236

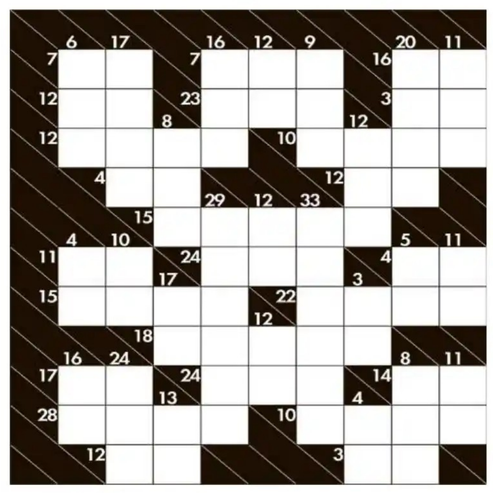
1	5	5	4	7	3	2	2
1	4	3	1	5	1	6	7
1	8	1	1	4	5	6	6
5	3	8	5	1	6	4	5
1	1	2	3	6	7	1	5
3	2	1	6	8	1	7	1
6	7	5	1	2	4	1	8
2	6	6	5	6	1	3	7

SOLUTION TO 3235

■	6	4	5	1	2	8	3
4	■	2	■	5	3	7	■
1	7	8	4	6	■	3	2
■	4	■	3	8	7	5	6
2	■	1	6	■	5	■	4
3	1	6	■	7	■	2	8
■	5	7	2	4	6	■	1
6	2	3	7	■	8	1	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3236



SOLUTION TO 3235

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3771

■					2		8	■
	■		1				■	
8		■				2		6
1			■	5	■			7
			9	■				3
	3		7	6	■	9		
		■		1		8		
	■		5				6	
■	2					1	9	■

SOLUTION TO 3770

9	8	5	3	7	2	1	4	6
6	2	4	8	1	9	5	3	7
3	7	1	5	6	4	8	9	2
5	9	3	6	4	1	2	7	8
4	1	7	2	5	8	3	6	9
8	6	2	7	9	3	4	5	1
1	3	9	4	8	6	7	2	5
7	4	6	1	2	5	9	8	3
2	5	8	9	3	7	6	1	4

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

New Trump defence bill backs deeper US engagement with India

Act outlines 'sense of Congress on Defence Alliances & Partnerships in Indo-Pacific region'

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, PTI

US President Donald Trump has signed into law an annual defence policy bill that highlights broadening America's engagement with India, including through the Quad to advance the shared objective of a free and open Indo-Pacific region and address the challenge posed by China.

The National Defence Authorisation Act for Fiscal Year 2026, signed into law on Thursday, also states that the Secretary of State shall establish and maintain within the US-India Strategic Security Dialogue a joint consultative mechanism with the Indian government in connection with the Nuclear Liability Rules.

It authorises fiscal year appropriations for the Department of War (DoW), the Department of Energy national security programmes, the Department of State, the Department of Homeland Security, the Intelligence Community, and other executive departments and agencies.

US President Donald Trump sits in the Oval Office to sign executive orders, at the White House. REUTERS

"The Act will enable the Department of War to carry out my Peace Through Strength agenda, protect the homeland from domestic and foreign threats, and strengthen the defence industrial base, while eliminating funding for wasteful and radical programmes that undermine the warfighting ethos of our Nation's men and women in uniform," Trump said in a statement.

The Act outlines 'sense of Congress on Defence Alliances and Partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region'.

Under this, the Secretary of Defence should continue efforts that strengthen US defence alliances and partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region to "further the comparative advantage of the US in strategic competition with China".

This includes "broadening US engagement with India, including through the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue to advance the shared objective of a free and open Indo-Pacific region through bilateral and multilateral engagements and participation in military exercises, expanded defence trade, and collaboration on humanitarian aid and disaster response; and to enable greater cooperation on maritime security."

The Quad or Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, comprising India, the US, Japan and Australia, was set up in 2017 to counter China's aggressive behaviour in the Indo-Pacific region.

The Act states that the Secretary of Defence, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall establish and maintain a security initiative to strengthen cooperation among the defence industrial bases of the US and allied and partner countries in the Indo-Pacific region.

Ball in court of Russia's opponents in Ukraine talks: Putin

Asserts Moscow will seize the rest of 'Ukrainian land' if talks fail

MOSCOW, AFP

Russia's Vladimir Putin on Friday said the ball was in the court of the West and Kyiv in talks to end the war in Ukraine, while hailing Moscow's recent battlefield gains and threatening more.

Speaking during his annual end-of-year news conference -- a staple of his 25-year rule -- Putin told Russians that Moscow was intent on pressing on in Ukraine, striking a confident tone.

The 73-year-old repeatedly says that Moscow will seize the rest of Ukrainian land he has proclaimed as Russian by force if talks fail.

Putin said Friday he did not feel personally responsible for the tens of thousands of people killed since Moscow launched its offensive, which has become Europe's worst conflict since World War II.

"We did not start this war," he said, repeating a frequent narrative pushed by Moscow throughout the conflict.

"We do not consider ourselves responsible for the loss of life."

He also denied dragging out settlement talks and turning down proposals -- claiming Moscow had agreed to "some compromises" -- without elaborating.

"The ball is now fully and completely on the side of our Western opponents... first of all the head of the Kyiv regime and their European sponsors," Putin said.

EU agrees to €90-bn Ukraine loan

EU leaders struck a deal Friday to provide Ukraine a 90-billion-euro loan to plug its looming budget shortfalls -- but failed to agree on using frozen Russian assets to come up with the funds, reports AFP.

Trump administration suspends green card lottery

Diversity visa programme makes up to 50k green cards available each year

WASHINGTON, AP

President Donald Trump suspended the green card lottery programme on Thursday that allowed the suspect in the Brown University and MIT shootings to come to the United States.

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said in a post on the social platform X that, at Trump's direction, she is ordering the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to pause the programme.

"This heinous individual should never have been allowed in our country," she said of the suspect, Portuguese national Claudio Neves Valente.

Neves Valente, 48, is suspected in the shootings at Brown University that killed two students and wounded nine others, and the killing of an MIT professor.

He was found dead Thursday evening from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, officials said.

Neves Valente had studied at Brown on a student visa beginning in 2000, according to an affidavit from a Providence police detective. In 2017, he was issued a diversity immigrant visa and months later obtained legal permanent residence status, according to the affidavit.

It was not immediately clear where he was between taking a leave of absence from the school in 2001 and getting the visa in 2017.

The diversity visa programme makes up to 50,000 green cards available each year by lottery to people from countries that are little represented in the US, many of them in Africa. The lottery was created by Congress, and the move is almost certain to invite legal challenges.

Nearly 20 million people applied for the 2025 visa lottery, with more than 131,000 selected when including spouses with the winners. After winning, they must undergo vetting to win admission to the United States. Portuguese citizens won only 38 slots.

Lottery winners are invited to apply for a green card. They are interviewed at consulates and subject to the same requirements and vetting as other green-card applicants.

Trump has long opposed the diversity visa lottery. Noem's announcement is the latest example of using tragedy to advance immigration policy goals. After an Afghan man was identified as the gunman in a fatal attack on National Guard members in November, Trump's administration imposed sweeping rules against immigration from Afghanistan and other counties.

While pursuing mass deportation, Trump has sought to limit or eliminate avenues to legal immigration. He has not been deterred if they are enshrined in law, like diversity visa lottery, or the Constitution, as with a right to citizenship for anyone born on US soil. The Supreme Court recently agreed to hear his challenge to birthright citizenship.

Immigration crackdown to hit naturalised US citizens

The Trump administration is looking at plans to strip some naturalised Americans of their citizenship, the latest in a series of efforts undertaken by President Donald Trump to crack down on immigration, reports PTI.

A report in the New York Times cited new internal guidance issued on Tuesday to US Citizenship and Immigration Services field offices, asking them to "supply Office of Immigration Litigation with 100-200 denaturalisation cases per month" in fiscal year 2026.

While federal law provides for stripping naturalised Americans of their citizenship if they committed fraud while applying for citizenship or in a handful of other situations, the new guidance "would represent a massive escalation of denaturalisation in the modern era," said the report.

Trump says he is not ruling out war with Venezuela

REUTERS: US President Donald Trump said he was leaving the possibility of war with Venezuela on the table, according to an interview with NBC News published on Friday.

"I don't rule it out, no," he told NBC News in a phone interview.

Trump also said there would be additional seizures of oil tankers near Venezuelan waters, according to the interview. The US seized a sanctioned oil tanker off the coast of Venezuela last week.

"If they're foolish enough to be sailing along, they'll be sailing along back into one of our harbors," he told NBC News.

On Tuesday, Trump ordered a "blockade" of all sanctioned oil tankers entering and leaving Venezuela, in Washington's latest move to increase pressure on Nicolas Maduro's government, targeting its main source of income.

China says it will allow export of rare-earth metals for civilian use

BEIJING, PTI: China on Friday said it will approve export of its rare-earth metals for civilian use, amid India's persistent calls for Beijing to lift curbs and resume the export of precious metals needed to manufacture a host of modern products.

China's export control on rare earth-related items in accordance with laws and regulations does not target any specific country, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun told a media briefing while responding to a question on India's calls for resumption of rare-earth over which Beijing holds a near monopoly.

"As long as the export is for civilian use and complies with regulations, the Chinese government will approve the application in a timely manner," he said, highlighting China's stand not to export the metals to manufacture defence products.

"China stands ready to step up dialogue and cooperation with relevant countries and regions to jointly keep the global industrial and supply chains stable," he said.

However, he emphasised that the permits would be for civilian use, considering that they could also be used to manufacture defence equipment.

"We'd like to stress that given the dual-use nature of medium and heavy rare earth and related items, exercising export control on the items is in line with international practice and reflects China's consistent position of firmly upholding world peace and regional stability and actively participating in international non-proliferation effort," Guo said.

China on Thursday confirmed the resumption of exports of rare-earth metals, lifting the curbs imposed earlier this year.

He Yadong, spokesperson of the Commerce Ministry, told the media that his ministry has received and approved applications from some Chinese exporters for general export licenses for rare earth-related items, confirming that China has resumed exports of rare-earth metals.

China accounts for about 70% of global rare earth mining.

Bangladesh presses fall silent after mobs torch offices

REUTERS

Printing presses at Bangladesh's two leading newspapers went silent on Friday for the first time in decades after mobs torched their offices in the worst attack on the media ahead of February's national elections.

The country of nearly 175 million people has been on edge since a student-led uprising in 2024 toppled Sheikh Hasina's long-standing government. Hasina is now sheltering in New Delhi, straining ties with India.

Tensions spiked further after youth leader and election candidate Sharif Osman Hadi - a vocal critic of India - died on Thursday night in a Singapore hospital, days after being shot by masked assailants in Dhaka.

Hundreds of mostly young protesters then flooded Dhaka's streets, ransacking and setting ablaze the offices of Prothom Alo, the nation's largest daily, and The Daily Star. By Friday, their charred shells stood as grim evidence, windows shattered and interiors gutted. Journalists and a government source said the newspapers may have been targeted for being seen as pro-Hasina and pro-India, though both say they are independent. The Daily Star said in an online report that the mob had called them "Delhi's lapdog" and "Sheikh Hasina's enabler".

Fire outside the Prothom Alo office in Dhaka, amid protests following the news of the death of youth leader Sharif Osman Hadi. AFP

"There have been sporadic attacks on newspaper offices but never at this scale," Kamal Ahmed, the newspaper's consulting editor, told Reuters.

"When they set fire to the building, the staff members inside could not escape. They went up to the rooftop, and they were trapped ... for about five hours. Our employees were gasping for breath in the dark smoke."

They were finally able to exit the building after 4 in the morning with the help of military reinforcements, he said.

Pakistan accuses India of trying to undermine Indus treaty

ISLAMABAD, PTI: Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar on Friday accused India of consistently attempting to undermine the Indus Waters Treaty, claiming the current material breaches strike at the heart of the pact.

Dar, who is also the Foreign Minister, was addressing the media a day after Pakistan sought clarification from India regarding variations in the flow of the Chenab river.

"We witnessed in April this year India's unilateral abeyance of the Indus Waters Treaty... But what we are witnessing now is material breaches by India that strike at the heart of the Indus Waters Treaty with escalating consequences both for regional stability and the sanctity of international law," he said.

A day after the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, India took a series of punitive measures against Pakistan that included putting the 1960 vintage Indus Water Treaty (IWT) in "abeyance."

The IWT, brokered by the World Bank, has governed the distribution and use of the Indus river and its tributaries between India and Pakistan since 1960. Dar also mentioned that "India's manipulation of water" has prompted Pakistan's Indus Commissioner to write a letter to his Indian counterpart seeking clarification on matter.

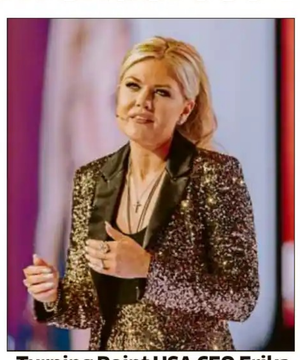
Erika Kirk endorses Vance for US President

PHOENIX, AFP

The widow of murdered right-wing activist Charlie Kirk has endorsed JD Vance for president in 2028, firing an early starting gun on the White House race, and offering the backing of the influential youth organization founded by her husband.

Erika Kirk, whose husband's Turning Point USA was a major player in mobilizing young people to vote for Donald Trump in 2024, told thousands of attendees she was backing the vice president to become the 48th president.

"We are going to get my husband's friend JD Vance elected for 48 in the most resounding way possible," she said on Thursday night at AmericaFest, the first major Turning Point gathering since Charlie Kirk was killed.



Turning Point USA CEO Erika Kirk, widow of late right-wing political activist Charlie Kirk, speaks during annual AmericaFest conference in Phoenix, Arizona. AFP

Vance is due to speak at the gathering on Sunday.

The endorsement comes as the Make America Great Again (MAGA) movement begins to look to a future without Trump.

Vance has not yet committed to running in 2028, but he is widely expected to put himself forward.

An early endorsement from a group that has become increasingly powerful within the movement could help to create momentum that makes a Vance candidacy seem inevitable.

But it also comes at a time that fractures in the MAGA movement are becoming increasingly obvious, and as some key figures are starting to express frustration and disillusionment with Trump.

Last month, firebrand Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene launched a blistering attack on Trump's second-term agenda, which she said was betraying voters.

Greene, until recently one of Trump's most loyal lieutenants, has said she will leave congress in January, with some commentators speculating that she might make a tilt at 2028. Other figures on the right, including white nationalist Nick Fuentes, also appear to be trying to lay claim to the crown.

Vance was close to Charlie Kirk in the months and years before he was shot dead on a Utah college campus, in a political assassination that shocked America and sent conservatives into shocked mourning.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Polish President Karol Nawrocki and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy chat after inspecting a guard of honour during a welcoming ceremony at the courtyard of the Presidential Palace in Warsaw, Poland, on Friday. REUTERS

Flights cancelled, roads flooded as rare storm soaks UAE

▸ UAE airport authorities cancelled or delayed dozens of flights and roads were flooded in major cities as the heaviest rainstorm in months lashed the desert nation on Friday, reports AFP from Dubai.

Dubai's Emirates airline axed 13 flights on Friday and there were also delays and cancellations at neighbouring Sharjah's airport after the overnight downpour, which woke residents with lightning flashes and loud cracks of thunder.

Sharjah's main street was completely flooded early on Friday, with residents seen wading through it in bare feet. One man rode his bicycle through the water, which reached the top of its wheels.

The scenes evoked memories of April 2024, when record rains caused widespread flooding and forced the cancellation of more than 2,000 flights at Dubai's major international air hub.

On Thursday, Dubai police had urged residents to stay in unless "absolutely necessary" as the rainstorm approached.

A group of migrants, found during a search operation off Gavdos island, walk to board buses to be transferred to a temporary facility, in the port of Agia Galini, Crete island, Greece on Friday. REUTERS

Kennedy arts center renamed

▸ US President Donald Trump sealed his takeover of Washington's famed Kennedy Center on Thursday after the White House said the institution's board voted to rename it the "Trump-Kennedy Center", reports AFP from Washington

Trump hand-picked new board members of the US national cultural center and installed himself as chairman earlier this year, as part of a crackdown on institutions he branded too woke.

But family members of slain US president John F. Kennedy, after whom the arts venue is named, slammed the decision as "beyond wild" and said it could not be renamed without the approval of Congress. Adding his own name to the storied venue is the latest in a series of grandiose Trump schemes including the demolition of the White House East Wing to build a $400-million ballroom, and planning a large triumphal arch.

Pak arrests IS-K spokesperson

▸ Pakistani authorities this year arrested Sultan Aziz Azzam, a spokesperson for Islamic State-Khorasan (IS-K), according to a recent report submitted to the UN Security Council, reports PTI from Islamabad.

The UN 16th report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team noted that IS-K's ability to operate in the region had been degraded as a result of high-profile arrests by Pakistan, such as that of Azzam this May.

IS-K is an abbreviation for the Islamic State–Khorasan Province, a terrorist organisation active primarily in Afghanistan, Central Asia and South Asia. The state-run Associated Press of Pakistan and PTV News stated that intelligence agencies arrested Azzam during an operation near the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

A farmer grows mushrooms inside a greenhouse during winter in Zaozhuang, eastern China's Shandong province. AFP

UK names new ambassador to US

▸ British Prime Minister Keir Starmer appointed a new UK ambassador to the United States on Thursday, replacing a diplomat who was fired over his over his links to the convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, reports AP from London.

Christian Turner, currently the UK's permanent representative to the United Nations, will replace Peter Mandelson, who was sacked in September because of his friendship with Epstein. The appointment comes as US President Donald Trump has been critical of Europe and at a time when Starmer and his European peers are pushing to make sure that a US brokered peace plan between Russia and Ukraine does not leave Kyiv vulnerable.

Income tax relief hits govt's revenue; net direct tax collection up 8%

Refunds decline 13.5% on stricter scrutiny

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Net revenue collection from non-corporate direct taxes increased by a paltry 6.4% in the current fiscal till mid-December, sharply lower than the budgetary target of 14.4% growth, largely due to tax relief provided through the 2025-26 Budget.

Between April 1 and December 17, net direct tax revenue stood at Rs 17.04 lakh crore, which is 8% higher when compared with the corresponding period of last year, as per data released by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on Friday.

Mop-up from corporate taxes stood at Rs 8.17 lakh crore and non-corporate taxes at Rs 8.47 lakh crore. Net revenue from Securities Transaction Tax (STT) stood at Rs 40,195 crore during the period under review.

On a year-on-year basis, direct taxes paid by companies were 10.5% higher, which is largely in line with the budgeted growth. However, collection from personal income tax has been far below the target. Even the 6.4% growth was due to delays in refunds. At gross level collection from non-corporate taxes increased by a paltry 1.3% year-on-year during the period under review.

"Overall the corporate advance tax increase signals good corporate earnings. Non-corporate advance tax collections have however declined possibly on the back of rate cuts for individuals given in the previous budget," said Rohinton Sidhwa, Partner, Deloitte India.

In the Union Budget presented in February, the Centre provided major tax relief, effectively making individual income up to Rs 12 lakh a year tax-free.

Direct tax collection (April 1 to December 17)

- Rs 17.04L cr — Net Direct tax collection, up **8%**
- Rs 8.17L cr — Net corporate tax collection, up **10.5%**
- Rs 8.47L cr — Net non-corporate tax collection, up **6.4%**
- Rs 2.97L cr — Refunds, down **13.5%**

■ Higher scrutiny delaying refunds; holding back of refunds may accelerate litigation, warns analysts

■ Direct tax collection full year 2025-26 budget target: Rs 25.2 lakh crore against Rs 22.26 lakh crore in 2024-25

The income tax department issued refunds worth Rs 2.97 lakh crore in the current fiscal till December 17, which is 13.5% lower than the refunds issued during the corresponding period of last year.

"The drop in refunds is being attributed to a higher amount of screening of any fraudulent refund claims. Holding back refunds also accelerates litigation that the tax department can ill-afford," Sidhwa said.

Vivek Jalan, Partner, Tax Connect Advisory, a multi-disciplinary tax consultancy firm, said the decline in refunds might be due to "stricter scrutiny of deductions availed of by taxpayers in their returns."

Advance tax collections from companies rose by 4.27% while from non-corporate it was 6.49% lower year-on-year.

According to analysts, marginal growth in gross collection from non-corporate despite lower advance collection indicates higher collection from tax deducted at source (TDS).

"While the advance tax collection from non-corporate has de-grown by 6.5%, yet the tax collections correspondingly have grown by 1.5%. This means that TDS for non-corporate have made up for the gap in growth," said Jalan.

"While on the one hand one can understand the importance of TDS as a tax collection mechanism, yet on the other hand it may also be possible that TDS rates may require further rationalisation taking into account the massive change in the tax slabs in the current budget," Jalan added.

For the full year 2025-26, the government targets Rs 25.2 lakh crore revenue from direct tax collections. Till December 17, it has achieved 67.6% of the target. In 2024-25, the mop up direct taxes stood at Rs 22.26 lakh crore.

Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA, said there would be a sizable miss in personal income tax collections relative to the FY2026 Budget target of Rs 13.6 lakh crore, while the corporate tax collections are likely to broadly meet the budget estimate.

"A pickup in refunds would weigh on the growth in net non-corporate tax collections in the remaining part of the fiscal," Nayar said.

However, Nayar added that higher dividends from the Reserve Bank of India and the central public sector enterprises are likely to help offset a portion of the miss-in tax collections.

RBI's neutral stance to enable actions as per evolving scene

Guv says rate cut would spur demand, be growth-supportive

MUMBAI, PTI

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra has said a neutral monetary policy stance would give flexibility to the central bank to act according to the evolving macroeconomic conditions while voting for a 25 bps cut in repo rate, along with five other Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) members.

The RBI on Friday released the minutes of the MPC meeting of December 3-5, 2025. It reduced the short-term lending rate (repo) by 25 bps to 5.25%, following the status quo on the rate in the two preceding MPC meetings.

While five members voted for continuing the neutral stance to enable the central bank to take data-driven policy action, one member, however, advocated for changing it to 'accommodative', according to the minutes.

"I vote for a 25-bps rate cut. This will also stimulate demand and be growth-supportive. Moreover, I am in favour of retaining the neutral stance, which gives the requisite flexibility to remain data-dependent and act according to the evolving macroeconomic conditions and outlook," Malhotra said.

He also said headline inflation is projected to be close to the 4% target in H12026-27.

Excluding precious metals, inflation is likely to be much lower, as has been the trend since the beginning of 2024, Malhotra added.

Deputy Governor Poonam Gupta said the most-crucial recent development from the perspective of monetary policy has been the faster-than-anticipated moderation in CPI headline inflation. "One may ask whether the current rate cut, resulting in a cumulative rate cut of 125 bps, could lead to overheating in the economy. However, not just headline and core inflation, but most other nominal indicators of the economy are prevailing at levels that indicate that the economy at this point is not showing any signs of overheating," she said.

Gupta voted for a neutral stance, so any future course of policy action would be totally data-dependent.

RBI Executive Director Indranil Bhattacharyya noted that inflation surprised on the downside by plummeting to 0.3% (the lowest level in the current CPI series) in October 2025.

Moderation of headline inflation by about 180 bps during September-October was faster than anticipated and primarily driven by the deflation in food prices.

In the current context, he said, when a muted inflation outlook, both in terms of the trajectory of headline and core (excluding precious metals), suggests the absence of demand pressures, the MPC ought to support growth, particularly when it is projected to decelerate going ahead.

Rupee ends 53 paise higher at 89.67 against US dollar

NEW DELHI, PTI

The rupee appreciated 53 paise to close at 89.67 against the US dollar on Friday, supported by corporate dollar inflows and easing crude oil prices.

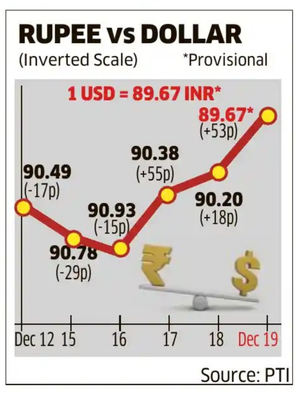
Forex traders said a positive trend in domestic equities and Brent crude oil prices hovering near $59 per barrel supported the domestic unit at lower levels.

The gain in the USD/INR pair follows the rupee's string of record lows in recent weeks, likely on intervention from the Reserve Bank of India, they added.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 90.19 against the US dollar, then recovered some lost ground to touch an intra-day high of 89.25, registering a 95-paise gain from its previous close.

At the end of the trading session on Friday, the rupee was quoted at 89.67, up 53 paise from its previous close.

On Thursday, the rupee appreciated by 18 paise to close at 90.20 against the US dollar.



The rupee sank to a fresh record low, breaching the 91-a-dollar mark for the first time on Tuesday.

"Strength in the domestic markets too favoured the rupee," said Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst, Mirae Asset ShareKhan.

Choudhary further added that the rupee is likely to trade with a negative bias due to selling pressure from foreign investors and nervousness amid the delay in the trade deal between India and the US.

"However, overall weakness in the US dollar index and crude oil prices may support the rupee at lower levels. USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of 89.90 to 90.50," he said.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.24 per cent higher at 98.66.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 0.37 per cent lower at USD 59.60 per barrel in futures trade.

On the domestic equity market front, the Sensex jumped 447.55 points to settle at 84,929.36, while the Nifty surged 150.85 points to 25,966.40.

FIIs purchased equities worth Rs 1,830.89 crore on Friday, according to exchange data.

India's forex reserves jumped by $1.689 billion to $688.949 billion during the week ended December 12, the Reserve Bank of India said on Friday.

Japan's MUFG to buy stake in Shriram Finance for Rs 39,618 cr

NEW DELHI, PTI: Japan's Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group Inc (MUFG) will acquire a minority stake of 20% in non-bank lender Shriram Finance Ltd (SFL) for Rs 39,618 crore (around $4.4 billion), marking the largest cross-border investment in India's financial sector to date.

MUFG will pick up the minority stake through preferential equity shares, Shriram Finance said in a statement.

The signing of definitive agreements with MUFG Bank reinforces confidence in India's lending and financial services sector fundamentals and future growth potential, the statement said, adding that it will also strengthen SFL's capital base and accelerate its growth trajectory.

The proposed investment by MUFG Bank is subject to shareholder approval, regulatory clearances and customary closing conditions, it said.

The Indian financial services firm said it would issue 47.11 crore shares at Rs 840.93 per unit to the Tokyo-based MUFG Bank.

"This collaboration combines SFL's established domestic franchise and extensive distribution network with MUFG Bank's global expertise and financial strength. The fund infusion will significantly enhance SFL's capital adequacy, strengthen its balance sheet, and provide long-term growth capital," it said.

Unlocking synergies

This partnership is further expected to unlock synergies in technology, innovation, and customer engagement, driving sustainable growth, it said.

The partnership will also improve access to low-cost liabilities and potentially strengthen SFL's credit ratings, while aligning governance and operational practices with global best standards, it added.

This investment reflects MUFG Bank's confidence in India's dynamic financial services sector, it said, adding the investment in SFL will be MUFG's largest investment in India.

William Penn launches Emily in Paris-themed Sheaffer line

BENGALURU, DHNS: Luxury writing instruments retailer William Penn on Friday announced a collaboration between its iconic pen brand Sheaffer and production house Paramount-owned popular Netflix show Emily in Paris, aiming to tap women customers.

Accordingly, the newly-launched Sheaffer x Emily in Paris Collection—ballpoint pens, passport cases, diaries, pouches, and wallets — features stylised colours, signages, and design elements reminiscent of the show.

Explaining the rationale behind the tie-up, William Penn Director Simritha Ranjan said, "Emily in Paris is one of the most-watched series, especially among women, around the world. We just thought that it's an amazing opportunity to make writing and owning our products stylish."

William Penn acquired Sheaffer in 2022 from a private equity firm for an undisclosed sum. "It goes back to the market research company we used two years ago, to understand what next... Because we had acquired a brand, and they came back with a peg that we need to veer towards women — an underserved market," Simritha added.

Sheaffer is keen on opportunities among women customers. In August this year, it launched the 'Expressions' collection, targeting both men and women. "Until then, Sheaffer largely served office-going men. We reimagined the brand. And this culminated into the latest collaboration," William Penn MD Nikhil Ranjan said.

Supported by the success of BGMI, KRAFTON plans to leverage the experience it has accumulated in India to expand its investment scope. PHOTO: KRAFTON

KRAFTON launches Rs 6k cr India-focused fund

BENGALURU, DHNS: South Korea-headquartered gaming company KRAFTON, which is home to renowned developers that include PUBG STUDIOS and Striking Distance Studios, has partnered with NAVER and Mirae Asset to launch a new India-focused Asian fund that will have a corpus of Rs 6,000 crore.

The KRAFTON-NAVER-MIRAEASSET Unicorn Growth Investment Fund is designed as a large-scale growth fund, targeting leading technology companies across Asia, with India at the centre of its investment strategy.

The Unicorn Growth Fund is currently preparing for establishment in January next year. KRAFTON will contribute an initial investment of Rs 1,230 crore, and together with the other two companies and external investors, the fund is expected to begin operations with a total size of over Rs 3,000 crore.

India has seen the rapid growth of breakthrough companies across AI, FinTech, content, logistics, and other innovation-led sectors. The country is considered a promising investment destination, backed by its growth potential, marketability, and technological capabilities.

KRAFTON, which has made a cumulative investment of over $200 million in the country's digital entertainment market, will join the new fund as part of its broader strategy to accelerate its presence and long-term investment vision in the country. Supported by the success of BATTLEGROUNDS MOBILE INDIA (BGMI), KRAFTON plans to leverage the experience it has accumulated in India to further expand its investment scope.

Founded in 1999, NAVER is South Korea's largest Internet company and one of the world's top tech companies. NAVER operates the No.1 search engine in South Korea and holds various business portfolios encompassing commerce, FinTech, cloud, AI and robotics. By collaborating with NAVER and Mirae Asset, KRAFTON will scale up its investments in India's promising tech companies.

"We expect that the collaboration among South Korea's leading companies will generate meaningful synergies," KRAFTON India CEO Sean (Hyunil) Sohn said.

"Our participation in this fund aims to discover sustainable businesses in India that create social and economic value in addition to gaming," he added.

Flipkart acquires majority stake in Minivet AI

BENGALURU, DHNS: E-commerce major Flipkart announced on Friday that it will acquire a majority stake in AI/ML solutions provider Minivet AI, which was founded in 2024. The acquisition is a move to build and invest in core GenAI capabilities. This is expected to accelerate the transition to a more intuitive, interactive, and immersive shopping experience for e-commerce platforms, including Flipkart.

Minivet AI focuses on generative video for e-commerce, transforming static product catalogues into rich, engaging video content at scale, Flipkart said.

Built on a foundation of sophisticated model orchestration and deep-performance optimisation, the platform delivers quality results at a fraction of traditional production costs. Beyond video, Minivet AI offers a broader suite of e-commerce AI capabilities—positioning the company as a full-stack AI partner, the company added.

"Acquiring Minivet AI is a strategic investment that will enhance Flipkart's core GenAI capabilities by the integration of niche talent and advanced proprietary technology, which includes leading solutions for catalogue videofication and semantic search. These are critical for addressing the rising industry trend of visual-first and video-first commerce, ultimately driving higher customer engagement, conversions, and long-term innovation across the Flipkart platform and, over time, the wider Flipkart Group ecosystem," Flipkart Senior Vice-President—Corporate Ravi Iyer said.

Markets bounce back on firm global trends

MUMBAI, PTI: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded sharply on Friday after sliding for the past four sessions, propelled by bargain hunting in select blue-chip stocks amid a firm trend overseas.

Renewed optimism around further monetary policy easing by the US Federal Reserve, fresh foreign fund inflows and an appreciating rupee also supported the domestic market, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 447.55 points, or 0.53%, to settle at 84,929.36. During the day, it surged 585.69 points, or 0.69%, to 85,067.50.

A total of 2,731 stocks advanced, while 1,444 declined and 156 remained unchanged on the BSE. The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 150.85 points, or 0.58 per cent, to 25,966.40.

On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark declined by 338.3 points or 0.39%, and the Nifty dipped by 80.55 points or 0.30%.

"Markets rebounded after the recent decline and gained over 0.5%, tracking favourable global cues," Ajit Mishra — SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

From the 30-Sensex firms, Bharat Electronics, Power Grid, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles, Asian Paints, Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank and Bajaj Finserv were among the biggest gainers. In contrast, HCL Tech, Kotak Mahindra Bank, ICICI Bank, and Sun Pharma were the laggards.

The BSE midcap gauge jumped 1.26%, and the small-cap index climbed 1.25%.

All sectoral indices ended higher. Realty surged 1.68%, capital goods (1.65%), telecommunication (1.54%), industrials (1.49%), utilities (1.25%) and power (1.24%).

Affordable housing price cap should be doubled to Rs 90L: CREDAI

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI) on Friday said it has requested the government to increase the price cap of affordable housing to Rs 90 lakh from the current Rs 45 lakh, taking into consideration inflation and other cost factors.

Talking to reporters, CREDAI President Shekhar Patel said the industry body was hopeful of a major announcement related to affordable housing in the upcoming budget.

A residential house/flat of carpet area of up to 90 sq are metres in non-metropolitan cities/towns and 60 sq metres in metropolitan cities having value up to Rs 45 lakh (both for metropolitan and non-metropolitan cities) are categorised as affordable houses.

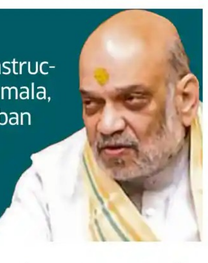
For this definition, metropolitan cities include Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi NCR (limited to Delhi, Noida, Greater Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurugram, Faridabad), Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai (whole of Mumbai Metropolitan Region).

The government provides tax and other incentives for development of affordable housing projects.

CREDAI president-elect G Ram Reddy said the price cap of affordable housing has not changed for the past eight years. "We are looking to the Union Budget for urgent policy support, especially with regard to affordable housing," Reddy said.

AMIT SHAH, Union Home Minister

"Initiatives like the National Infrastructure Pipeline, Bharatmala, Sagarmala, and Parvatmala have strengthened urban development and infrastructure and prepared a roadmap to take India towards the countries with the best infrastructure in the world,"



Next-gen infra

Meanwhile, addressing a national conclave organised by CREDAI, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the Centre has given a new boost to the real estate sector by reducing GST on housing construction materials.

"Over the past 11 years, many important works have been done for next-generation infrastructure. Initiatives like the National Infrastructure Pipeline, Bharatmala, Sagarmala, and Parvatmala have strengthened urban development and infrastructure and prepared a roadmap to take India towards the countries with the best infrastructure in the world," Shah said.

He stated that the GST on affordable housing has been reduced from 8% to 1%, on housing projects from 12% to 5%, on cement from 28% to 18%, and on marble, granite, sand, lime, and bricks from 12% to 5%. GST on bamboo flooring has also been reduced from 12% to 5%.

Overall these new reforms have created the possibility of a 5-7% reduction in the cost of constructing a building, Shah said.

He asked big developers to plan development of low-cost housing projects along with large projects.

Adani to invest Rs 1 L cr in airports

MUMBAI, PTI: Adani Group plans to invest Rs 1 lakh crore in its airports business over the next five years, betting on sustained growth in India's aviation sector, which is expected to expand at 15-16% annually, a top executive said.

"On the airport side, Rs 1-lakh crore in the next five years," Jeet Adani, Director of Adani Airports, said ahead of the start of commercial operations at Navi Mumbai International Airport on December 25.

Navi Mumbai International Airport will become the latest addition to the Adani Group's expanding airport portfolio.

Beside the two airports at Mumbai, Adani Group operates six other airports at Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Guwahati, Thiruvananthapuram, Jaipur and Mangaluru.

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SAD DEMISE

Dr B.N. Manjuladevi
Bsc., DHM, M.B.B.S. , M.D.(Psych)
(W/o S.Gurappaji-Malavalli)
Associate Professor Of Psychiatry (Retd.)
NIMHANS, Bangalore.
Deeply mourned by:
Dr. Madhukar G Appaji (Son)
Final funeral: 20-12-2025

A stocking full of MEMORIES

Sneha's grandparents decide to surprise her on Christmas Eve.
Suryakumari Dennison describes the night

Esther smiled nostalgically as she journeyed in memory to a long-ago Christmas Eve. She could not remember whether it had been her husband Andrew's idea or hers to fill their granddaughter's stocking. What she did recall was the problem of putting that plan into place.

Both of them had tiptoed into Sneha's room, at midnight, armed with an assortment of gifts. As the items were of various shapes and sizes, squeezing them into the stocking was difficult. Besides, they had to work in silence. Suddenly, a clockwork mouse, which Andrew had inadvertently wound, slid out of his grasp and ran across Sneha's pillow. Andrew and Esther froze as the little girl stretched in her sleep.

When the stocking was ready to burst, Andrew insisted on cramming it further. "A Christmas stocking is incomplete without something to munch," he whispered. "That does it," he announced, placing a packet firmly on the tiara that crowned the stocking. Too firmly! The paper pouch split in protest, and its contents dispersed in different directions.

Esther had stifled a chuckle as her husband growled under his breath. "Why were stockings ever invented?" muttered Andrew, as both of them went down on the floor to retrieve the goodies.

Looking back in time, Esther wiped a tear. Her husband had been kind and affectionate beneath his gruff exterior. He had been gone several years, and not a day went by without her missing him.

Just when Andrew and Esther thought their stocking scheme had been adroitly accomplished, Esther had realised that a last-minute purchase still remained in her shopping bag, and she crept out to fetch it. It was expensive, but Esther had been unable to resist the satin-gowned, golden-haired princess, with silver shoes. There was no way she could shove the tiny figure in, so she tried to tie it to the tiara on top.

Unfortunately, that sparkling ornament had got squashed beneath Andrew's sweet treats, now minus their wrapping. As Esther reached gently for the tiara, the chocolates fell out once more. She also dislodged a bulging purse. Its zipper had somehow come loose, and the coins, which Andrew and Esther had collected on their travels abroad, clinked as they scattered.

It seemed to Andrew and Esther that they had only just finished with the stocking and retired for what was left of the night, when Sneha burst through their door. She flung herself on them, joyfully yelling, "Merry Christmas".

Sneha dragged her grandparents out of bed, and into the living room. There, the disoriented couple found Sneha's parents in a similar state of stupor. "Listen to what happened," urged the youngster, and began her narration.

"It was just like that poem you read to me the other day, Grandma," began Sneha. "The one about the night before Christmas, when not a creature was stirring. How silly not to stir on Christmas Eve! I was awake and alert, and heard the sound of sleigh bells outside." As Andrew and Esther exchanged bemused glances, Sneha said she was aware of Santa striding towards the house, through the hall and into her room, where he made straight for the stocking. She had longed to take a peep, but feared he might not leave her anything if he caught her watching him. She had then drifted into slumber, and when morning came ("If 4 am can be called morning," grumbled Andrew), she had found her stocking stuffed with surprises.

As Sneha delightedly displayed the presents her grandparents had chosen with care, Andrew and Esther were satisfied that their exciting endeavour had been a super success. Looking in on Sneha later, they saw that, tired after rising early, she had fallen asleep at her desk. As Andrew and Esther moved towards her, they noticed that she was slumped over a little notebook.

"Dear Diary," Sneha had written, "I like all my pretty playthings, although they are a bit childish. What I really wanted was a first-aid kit. Wish dear Grandpa and Grandma had put that in."

How Andrew and Esther had laughed, after the initial shock! Esther grew tearful again, thinking of her darling granddaughter, pursuing her studies far from home. The next moment, someone entered. Esther felt herself hugged tight and held close. "Merry Christmas!" said a vibrant voice. "Don't be sad, Grandma," the young woman added lovingly; "Dr Sneha is here, with Christmas cheer!"

2 DIY craft for Christmas

Items you can make using paper and simple stationery

Desktop Christmas tree

Materials needed
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Tape or stapler

Method
1) To make the cone base, roll a sheet of cardboard into a cone shape and secure it with tape or glue. Trim the bottom so it stands flat.
2) Cut the felt paper into long horizontal strips. Make small vertical snips along one side of each strip to create fringes.
3) Starting from the bottom of the cone, glue a fringed strip around it. As the strip ends, continue wrapping another upwards, overlapping each layer, until the cone is fully covered.
4) For the topper, cut a star shape from gold glitter paper or foam and glue it to the tip of the cone.
5) Decorate the tree by sticking small pom-poms randomly on the tree.
6) Allow the glue to dry completely before displaying the tree on your desk.

Santa on a stick

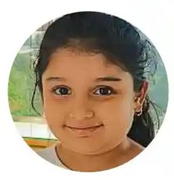
Materials needed
- Red chart paper
- White cupcake liner
- White paper
- Black marker or googly eyes
- Red paper or foam
- Ice cream/craft stick
- Glue
- Scissors

Method
1) To make Santa's outfit, cut a triangle from the red chart paper and paste it on top of an ice cream stick.
2) For the face, cut a circle from white paper.
3) Flatten a white cupcake liner slightly and glue the face on the liner's circular part, to form Santa's beard. Stick this in the central part of the triangle.
4) Add a thin white strip just above the face, to make it look like the trim of Santa's cap. Add a small white circle on top of the triangle.
5) Draw eyes using a black marker or paste googly eyes. Cut out a moustache from white paper and stick it below the eyes. For the nose, stick a small red circle in the centre of the moustache.
6) Let the glue dry completely before using it as a decoration.

Season's GREETINGS

Open Sesame readers share their art

On November 29, *Open Sesame* asked its young readers to send in their artworks. Soon, we were flooded with entries from across the country. Many paintings were good, but we can only publish a few because of space constraints. Don't let that discourage you. Get creative and keep writing and painting, and stand a chance to be featured in an upcoming edition! Send your entries to: *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in*



RIYA, 6
Bengaluru, Karnataka

SAANVI S SHETTY, 10
Bengaluru, Karnataka

IRFAN HABEEB, 5
Bengaluru, Karnataka

NESARA M V, 5
Bengaluru, Karnataka

MANVITA S AGNIHOTRI, 10,
Bengaluru, Karnataka

CHIRANTH, 8
Bengaluru, Karnataka

This Week:

Marvellous mathematicians

Open Sesame Quiz

Take the fun Open Sesame quiz, and stand a chance to win gift vouchers worth Rs 500. Open to children below 16 years.

Q1 December 22, the birth anniversary of Ramanujan, is National Mathematics Day. Who was the 19th-century German mathematician with whom Ramanujan's two British collaborators compared their Indian colleague?

Q2 Greek mathematician Archimedes reportedly leapt out of his bathtub and ran outside, excitedly announcing a new discovery. What exclamatory word used by him has since passed into English?

Q3 'Shakuntala Devi' is a biopic on the life of the famous mathematician and mental calculator. Who was nominated for an award for her portrayal of the titular character?

Scan the QR code
Or visit bit.ly/DHopensesame to participate in the quiz.

Q4 **Rhyme Time:** Two clues to which the answers rhyme with each other.
Clue A: Mathematicians Aryabhata and Brahmagupta recognised the number __.
Clue B: Central figure in a literary work.

Q5 **Clue Cluster:** English mathematician Ada Lovelace was the first computer programmer. Who was her father?
a) Poet
b) Missolonghi
c) Cambridge
d) Aristocrat

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: Mithiksha (14), Gangavathi; Aayaan (13), Vijayanagara; Dharvish (13), Raichur.

LET'S DEBATE!

Want to take part in the upcoming *Open Sesame* debate? Share your thoughts in a crisp 200-word essay on the topic 'Should zoos exist?' Mail your works to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in.* Entries close on December 25. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, school and city. And send us a recent photograph.

POETS IN THE MAKING

Want to see your poetry in print?

Send in poems on the topic 'A Fresh Page' to *Open Sesame.* You may be featured in an upcoming edition. Mail your work — not more than 12 lines — to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in.* Entries close on January 8. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, and city. And send us a recent photograph.

Word of the Week
windfall
(noun)
— an amount of money that somebody/something wins or receives unexpectedly
Usage:
— When Anita received a bonus, it felt like a welcome windfall.
— The court ruling came as a windfall for Meera, who had been waiting for years for compensation.

LETTER WRITING

Write an open letter to B R Ambedkar

If you got the chance to have a conversation with B R Ambedkar, the chief architect of our Constitution, what would you like to know from him, and what would you tell him about yourself? Write an open letter and share it with us. You stand a chance of being featured in an upcoming edition. Mail your work to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in.* Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, and city, and send us a recent photograph. Entries close on January 1.

Bitter COFFEE

The cautionary story of V G Siddhartha

Business journalist Rukmini Rao, who has closely followed the ups and downs of Cafe Coffee Day, offers rare insights into the man behind the iconic chain

It was a few months into my first print job at a business magazine. Our editorial meeting held every Monday evening would be quite the democratic brainstorming session. A story pitch had to first be convincing enough for almost everyone in the room. Everyone could voice their opinions and question it.

On July 29, 2019, when the meeting was on, Kannada channels started flashing the news that V G Siddhartha, founder of the iconic Café Coffee Day (CCD) chain, had gone missing. Details were still sketchy. The first thing to cross one's mind was, "How can a prominent businessman go missing near Mangaluru?" Of course nobody presumed him to be dead then.

Trying to reach the police commissioner for any clarity proved to be difficult that day. For someone not in the daily news cycle, I had the luxury of waiting and watching how the situation unfolded. By then, TV news channels, with bureaus in Mangaluru, had already activated their 24X7 storytelling mode.

As evening turned to night, the rumours of Siddhartha's suicide became stronger. By 9 pm, it was more or less accepted that Siddhartha had jumped into the Netravati river from the bridge, even though, by that time, no one seemed to have seen him do it. It was still hard to believe.

His death was confirmed in the wee hours of July 31 when the search operation resulted in the discovery of his body. At that time, the basic outline of the case was that Siddhartha had taken too many loans and failed to meet his payment commitments. In his death note, he entirely took the blame for all the business outcomes.

Prosenjit Dutta, editor of the fortnightly where I worked, called to tell me that this would warrant a cover story. While that story was in progress, the focus now was on other developments — Who will run the company? What was the real debt of the group? How much did it owe to banks and NBFCs (non-banking financial companies)? A few months after his death, the trading of its shares had been suspended at the stock exchanges. It all looked like one big mess that was left behind for the board to handle. The company's board of directors looked clueless on many of the above questions at the time of his death.

For someone who had built a brand like CCD, Siddhartha taking his life seemed an unlikely and desperate move. To the curious me, it felt more important to get to know the person behind all the material posturing.

Before tragedy struck

Growing up as a '90s kid in Bangalore, the earliest memory of CCD was not just the cafe near Manuvana in Vijayanagar but also the Fresh and Ground outlet near my school in Basaveshwaranagar. These outlets, which preceded the cafe chain, were the company's foray into retail sales of coffee powder. From here, my family would buy 70:30 coffee powder for our daily consumption.

After I moved to business journalism in 2010, I covered the cafe chain on and off. Back then, they were in fundraising mode. They were attracting private equity investors like Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, branching out to other businesses like furniture making, and at the same time expanding their presence and experimenting with formats and offerings to take on the famed international competition — Starbucks. Through a joint venture with the Tata group, Starbucks was looking to enter the Indian market to plug into the cafe culture established by incumbents such as CCD, Barista and Costa Coffee.

Though Siddhartha was the face of the cafe chain, he rarely interacted with media houses. Other top level executives, like K Ramakrishnan, did the talking. The Coffee Day empire consisted of financial services, and real estate and logistics businesses, but its brand recollection was always the coffee and cafe business.

By early 2019, the coffee chain was in the news for multiple reasons. Siddhartha had stepped down from the board of Mindtree in March 2018, sparking rumours of an impending stake sale that he and his companies held in the midcap IT firm. Then there were reports of talks with Coca Cola for a part stake sale of the coffee business. There was also talk that he was selling one of his coveted real estate projects, Global Village Tech Park, to one of the world's largest alternative asset management companies, Blackstone. The urgency of Siddhartha to cash out was obvious by then. The only deal he could conclude before his death was the stake sale of Mindtree to infrastructure giant Larsen & Toubro in March that year.

Hundreds gathered on the roadside in Banakal, Chikkamagaluru, to catch a final glimpse of V G Siddhartha during his funeral procession. DH FILE PHOTO

Meeting Siddhartha's mother

For our research, we had to go beyond informal chats. When we approached Malavika Hegde, his wife, she politely turned us down. But Dr Pradeep Kenjige, director for R&D at Coffee Day Global Ltd, decided to engage with us. Kenjige is an author and also the father of American professional cricketer, Nosthush Kenjige. A coffee planter himself, he provided rare insights into the family. He recalled how he had closely interacted with Siddhartha's father, Gangaiah Hegde.

A Gandhian and a socialist, Siddhartha's father was an aberration when it came to large estate owners in the region. Kenjige recalls how Gangaiah Hegde paid the highest bonuses to his workers during festivals and lent his voice in support of small coffee plantation owners' issues and difficulties when they took them to the Coffee Board of India and state government authorities.

Kenjigi and I set out from Mudigere to the Chetanahalli coffee estate to meet Siddhartha's octogenarian mother Vasanthi Hegde. She still lives there tending to the coffee estates that the family owns. After driving through picturesque estates, we reached the gates of Siddhartha's family home, perched on a somewhat table top hill.

It is a beautiful estate home with large, wall-to-wall wooden French windows, impeccably clean and tastefully decorated. Right at their doorstep is a bird's-eye view of vast expanses of greenery.

True to Malnad hospitality, she first insisted on feeding us — hot masala dosey that her house help had made.

She was married at the age of 17. In the early days, the estate was an isolated and frightening place. "When 'Aiyya' (which is what everyone called Gangaiah) was away overnight for any work, I would be scared to stay up after dark. With no electricity and nothing but dense forests for kilometres, it was unsettling," she recalls. She would go to bed at sunset and pull the blankets over her head.

The eminent Kannada poet, Kuppalli Venkatappa Putappa, better known by his pen name Kuvempu, was a distant relative of both families. Vasanthi had the opportunity to closely interact with him since her childhood. Kuvempu's philosophy and reverence for nature, and the influence of Ramakrishna Paramahamsa and Vivekananda also left a mark on her thinking.

Marxist leanings

In the living room, I spotted a picture of Siddhartha receiving a business award from L K Advani. As she spoke of her son, her composure and calmness struck me the most. Siddhartha's father passed away days after him. A woman who had lost her son and husband in quick succession still stood strong.

The freeflowing conversation gave us insights into the early life of Siddhartha, his industriousness, the dreams he had for his children, his outlook towards his large extended family and his sense of duty to the community. We gathered that during his youth, Siddhartha was deeply influenced by the nationalist spirit.

Siddhartha had joined the National Cadet Corps and completed his 'B' certificate (a certification that gives a candidate bonus marks if he/she appears for any of the defence job exams). He was tall and physically fit and had learnt how to shoot, in the hope that he would join the army. His parents did not discourage him — they told him to pursue his dreams. Siddhartha was quite shattered when he failed the entrance exam to the military academy. He would bring this up time and time again with some regret in his interviews. If he had managed to join the armed forces, the story of his life may have been totally different.

Perhaps his fascination for the army may be traced to his mother — Vasanthi's dream as a young girl was to marry an army officer. "I used to tell my son that army life was good. In addition to being of service to the nation, I liked their lifestyle and their discipline."

Though he grew his business on the back of the liberalisation policy of the '90s, in his early days, he leaned towards communism. At the Indian Entrepreneurship Summit held in August 2016 at IIT Kanpur, Siddhartha talked about his beliefs. "I was very sure I'll become a Communist party member. But I started realising after reading Soviet history that when people come to power, they forget the basic principle of why they came to power. Karl Marx's principles were fantastic and I believed those days that capitalists are crooks and I still believe we are not very good people. I thought I would become like Robin Hood — take capital from the rich and give it to the poor. By the final year of my degree, (I) started realising that there is no money to be made in this country at all."

Political connections

Though he was married to the elder daughter of the late Karnataka chief minister S M Krishna, Siddhartha kept a low profile. Krishna's wife was also a distant relative of the Hegdes. His acquaintances and donations cut across party lines like any good businessman in India.

Chikkamagaluru BJP MLC C T Ravi recalled how after graduating from college and having just joined the BJP, he had gone to meet Siddhartha on his bike. "Siddhartha found a place in my heart because he was willing to spend time with a person who was a nobody then," he said.

During S M Krishna's tenure, in 1999, he played a major role in getting together the right people to set up the Bangalore Agenda Task Force (BATF). In his biography 'Smritivahini', Krishna writes that he sought Siddhartha's help to convince Nandan Nilekani to meet him and get him to head the task force.

The challenges

What turned out to be quite a challenge was connecting with his friends from his college days in Mangaluru. One of them was deeply involved in his business. Phone calls and messages went unanswered. At the same time what proved to be even more difficult was getting the Dalal Street folks to talk. Those close to Siddhartha during his Mumbai days chose not to respond, though they were active on social media.

Some who had early business associations with him willingly spoke to us, giving us insights that were completely off the record. However, without enough to corroborate those insights, we were not able include them in our research.

Surprisingly some of the bankers and other lenders were sympathetic towards Siddhartha — seeing him as a victim of circumstances rather than as a wilful defaulter. It was largely his charm and humility that had gone a long way in sustaining relationships, which helped him borrow more and more. Later, while the investigation by SEBI into Coffee Day Enterprises and Mysore Amalgamated Coffee Estates Ltd (a private company held by the promoter) definitively established fund diversion, the National Financial Reporting Authority's investigation of the group companies' auditors threw light on how such diversion took place.

A Cafe Coffee Day outlet on M G Road, Bengaluru. DH FILE PHOTO

Where it stands today

Today, the Coffee Day group resembles a standalone coffee and hospitality business from its earlier presence across finance, real estate and logistics sectors. After his death, the non-core businesses were monetised to pare debt. The tech park was sold to Blackstone and Salarpuria Sattva, the Way2Wealth finance business was sold to the Chennai-based Sriram group, Sical Logistics was acquired by Pristine Malwa Logistics Park Private Limited.

Prior to his death in 2018, Coffee Day had nearly 1,700 cafes, 500-plus kiosks, more than 400 Fresh & Ground outlets, and over 47,500 vending machines placed in offices of different companies. Compared to that as per the company's disclosure, at the end of September 30, 2025, the cafe count stood at 423 while the vending machine business has fared much better with 55,733 machines.

The cafe culture in India is now drastically different. CCD now contends not just with Starbucks, but also with homegrown startups like Blue Tokai and Third Wave Coffee Roasters as well as global brand names such as Pret a Manger and Tim Hortons. For CCD to regain its glory, perhaps those who run it will need to rediscover who it serves, given that the population that holds CCD nostalgia has already moved up the value chain. For it to grow, the company would need cash infusion but then in its current form, getting an external investor or raising debt seems difficult.

Siddhartha's body was found on July 31, 2019 in the Netravati River. DH FILE PHOTO

For me, the business learnings were many. Coffee Day was a brand built on Siddhartha's passion, hunger and need to prove to the world that he had it in him to match up to the Mumbai conglomerates. However, in practice, the way he ran his companies holds a lesson about what happens when professionalism gets sidelined. Talent hiring on the basis of acquaintance brought with it its own incompetence — boards of his private companies largely consisted of relatives and friends. A lack of dissenting voices meant no checks and balances were in place. While this may have been by design and choice, it serves well as a cautionary tale of how running a business this way is suicidal in the long run.

(The author spent four years researching and writing 'Coffee King — The Swift Rise and Sudden Death of Café Coffee Day Founder V G Siddhartha', along with co-author Prosenjit Datta)

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MUSICANA

The santoor is reaching new listeners, says Rahul Sharma

Collaborating with Richard Clayderman and Kenny G are two distinct experiences, he tells
Shraddha A K

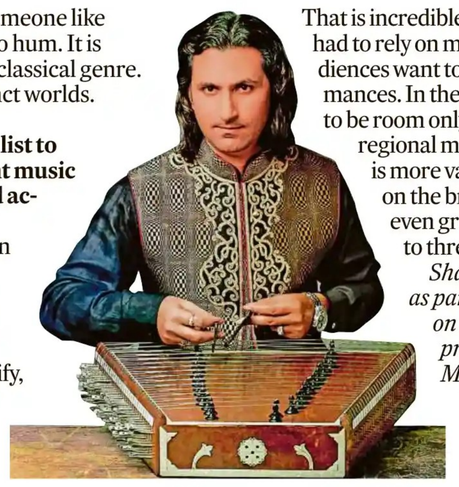
A lot has changed when it comes to santoor music, says Rahul Sharma. The santoor player is performing in Bengaluru on Sunday. Excerpts from an interview:

Since your father, Pandit Shivkumar Sharma, introduced the santoor to classical music, how has its status changed?
The santoor was a little-known Kashmiri instrument primarily used in the Sufiana style of music. My father had a vision for it; he created a new language for others to follow. As a result, santoor has become an intrinsic part of Indian classical music. Since then, it has also found a place in various other genres. I have experimented with electronica and collaborated with Grammy-winning artistes like Deep Forest. The santoor led the Cape Town Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra, a milestone for this instrument.

You have also worked on non-classical and thematic work. How do you transition between these two styles, given that one is raga-bound and the other is not?
When it comes to performing on stage, each raga typically lasts an hour. This process is similar to how a painter works on a canvas, gradually adding colours and details. A raga unfolds similarly, revealing various permutations and combinations, rooted in improvisation and not rehearsed music. While composing for Richard Clayderman, I learnt the importance of sticking to notation. Conversely, when I play with Kenny G, who is accustomed to jazz improvisation, there is more freedom. I might leave a gap of about 20 bars for him to improvise before I join in.

How has film music influenced your approach to classical music, and vice versa?
I worked for 'Mujhse Dosti Karoge' and was fortunate to have Lata Mangeshkar sing three or four of my compositions. It taught me a lot about the craft. Creating film music is not just about quality, but also the director's vision. It is completely situational. The melody should be catchy enough for even someone like a rickshaw driver to hum. It is different from the classical genre. They are two distinct worlds.

What is your wishlist to make independent music more popular and accessible?
Today, an artiste can reach fans across the globe. When you receive your year-end data on platforms like Spotify, it might show that your music was played in 178 countries. That is incredible! Previously, artistes had to rely on music companies. Audiences want to engage with performances. In the past, there seemed to be room only for Bollywood or regional music, but now there is more variety. I think we are on the brink of something even greater in the next two to three years.



Rahul Sharma

Sharma will perform as part of 'Uttar Dakshin' on December 21, 6 pm at Chowdaiah Memorial Hall, Vyalikaval. Tickets online.

Homebound, now shortlisted for the Oscars, represents an elite view that fails to recognise lived realities, writes M K Raghavendra

Ghaywan's flawed caste portrayals

A film like Neeraj Ghaywan's 'Homebound' puts all kinds of pressures on an Indian film critic. In the first place, it brings two marginalised communities — Dalit and Muslim — together, and any criticism by someone not from among them could be taken as a position against the communities. Secondly, Neeraj Ghaywan has made it known that he is a Dalit and also that it took him courage to admit it. Lastly, the film has been well received at Cannes (and now shortlisted for best international feature at the Academy Awards), which means that critics who dislike 'Homebound' risk further marginalisation. Still, since honest film criticism is nearing extinction, it needs to assert itself, at least as a marginalised category.

The film is inspired by a *New York Times* article by Basharat Peer but we are not sure of the creative liberties taken. 'Homebound' follows two childhood friends chasing a police job that promises them dignity that they have been denied.

Ghaywan had concealed his identity as a Dalit, which implies that he belonged to a socio-economic class that allowed him to keep his distance from his caste folk: he was more privileged. Dalit ideologue Arjun Dangle ('Poisoned Bread') has a name for this, and he calls them 'Dalit Brahmins'; former Chief Justice of India B R Gawai (himself a Dalit) also invoked it when he noted that a manual laborer and an IAS officer, even when both are Dalits, are not equal, and should not be equally compensated. My proposition is that a 'Dalit Brahmin' cannot speak authentically about the Dalit experience and his idea of caste identity may overlook ground realities.

Caste dominates Ghaywan's work in cinema, and 'Masaan' (2015) is his first take. In that film, a police inspector extorts Rs 3 lakh from a Brahmin professor of Sanskrit in Varanasi. The reason is that the professor's daughter is caught in a hotel room with a young man. Both are adults and the sex is consensual; what, then, was the heinous crime for which the professor has to pay Rs 3 lakh? Moreover, a Brahmin professor of Sanskrit is in a respected position in Varanasi and he is likely acquainted with powerful people to approach, especially since the extortionist is of low rank. Anyone educated in India knows someone powerful enough to approach, and a lowly placed adversary would not present a problem.

Ishaan Khatter and Vishal Jethwa in Neeraj Ghaywan's 'Homebound'.

In 'Homebound', which is about a close friendship, Ghaywan brings a Dalit and a Muslim together as social victims, but the communities are not marginalised in the same way. A Muslim is not socially outcast and is only politically distanced by the discourse around Hindutva. But bringing the two together is a strategy to find a larger constituency, and there are terms like Dalit-Bahujan and Ahinda to testify to its popularity. Mayawati even brought Dalits and Brahmins together to fight the OBCs. 'Homebound' includes the standard instances to demonstrate Dalit and Muslim disadvantage — a Dalit employee not being allowed to cook in a school, a Muslim getting into a fight in a game of cricket for his so-called 'Pakistani' associations. Ghaywan is not even consistent here since the pickle from the Dalit boy's home is grabbed by eager boys who are not Dalit, and they are boys who would know about his caste. Caste discrimination is practised not just by people who have social positions — it is horrifyingly all pervasive.

The fact that a Muslim and a Dalit are made close companions is a disingenuous strategy. Regardless of the tenets of the religion, the Islamicate category in Hindi cinema indicates hierarchical preoccupations. The tragedy in Pakeezah, for instance, is not that a woman should be a courtesan but that someone of aristocratic birth should be one, and the lowly born courtesans in the film are not wept over. Muslims under the Mughals were ranked as 'Turani', 'Irani' and 'Hindustani' and the last category (those without discernible foreign ancestry) were the lowest placed. Shared status between the two cannot therefore come naturally.

Regarding the economic detail in the narrative, both boys find unskilled blue-collar work in Surat. But loans are ridiculously easy to get and the Dalit boy helps his family construct a home that would cost tens of lakhs, even when the EMI on a housing loan is around 1% of the borrowed sum. The Dalit boy's romantic interest is a Dalit girl (Janhvi Kapoor) whose father is a linesman in the railway, but Ghaywan gives her a home that would be the envy of a middle level executive.

Then we come to the central ploy, which is that both boys hope to pass a competitive examination to become police constables; they conduct themselves eagerly as though it were a real test of merit. I should not say more, but the attraction of certain government jobs is in the extra money it puts into one's hands, and any job that does this will certainly necessitate a down payment. One is not sure if the film could have admitted this fact, but there could be a ruse to get around it. In the film 'Santosh' (2024), for instance, the heroine becomes a policewoman through a compassionate appointment since her husband is killed in the line of duty.

Lastly, and Ghaywan is not the only culpable one here, the casting of upper-caste actors (usually Brahmins) as Dalits is indifference to actualities. There has been a move to include caste discrimination under racism, which means that physiognomy plays a part in identifying caste. We cannot hence take the truly disadvantaged to be only grimy versions of the fortunate; there is an enormous gap between the two, and films like 'Homebound' hardly shed any light on it.

(The author is a well-known film critic)

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to dhonsat @deccanherald.co.in

'Dharam-ji was a vital part of Ikkis'

Sriram Raghavan talks to Rajiv Vijayakar about his biopic on war hero Arun Khetarpal, set for release next week

Sriram Raghavan has hit the bull's eye among fans even with films that did not do well initially but became cult later, like 'Ek Hasina Thi', his directorial debut, and 'Johnny Gaddaar'. With hits like 'Badlapur' and 'Andhadhun', expectations soared. His last film, 'Merry Christmas', maintained his Hitchcockian bent.

Sriram has now ventured into biopic zone with 'Ikkis', his latest film set for a Christmas release.

Excerpts from an interview:

Sriram Raghavan on the sets of 'Ikkis' with Dharmendra.

'Ikkis' comes in the ikkiswa (21st) year of your film career. How did it happen?

It was sheer coincidence! I was actually meeting Dinesh for 'Badlapur 2'. Publicist and creative producer Binny Padda was there too and he narrated a story about Param Vir Chakra-winning Second Lieutenant Arun Khetarpal. I asked him who was making the film. When he said that it was just an idea, I thought it would be a nice departure from my comfort zone to take it on, as I was used to making crime stories.

As a biopic, how critical was research to the film?

Yes. I met Arun's brother, his batchmates in the National Defence Academy, his colleagues in the Indian Military Academy (IMA) and the Pune Horse Regiment, and based on their inputs, I built a composite picture of this young boy.

The film will be legendary Dharmendra's last...

Dharam-ji was a very vital part of the film from the time I started scripting 'Ikkis' five years back. After 'Johnny Gaddaar', I had connected deeply with him. When I began 'Merry Christmas', he even asked me what happened to this story!

In 'Ikkis', he has a powerful, emotional role of Brigadier Khetarpal, Arun's father, and has given a great performance. This whole year, he travelled with us to locations in Chandigarh and Pune. His fans on location gathered like a mob. They were of all ages, and he would happily chat with them and take pictures.

(Read full interview online)

'45' set for pan-India Christmas release

Music wizard Arjun Janya's directorial debut multi-starrer film '45' is a lavish production. This movie with a fantasy story promises a unique experience with world-class VFX

(Left to right) Cinematographer Satya Hegde; director Arjun Janya; stars Upendra, Dr Shivarajkumar and Raj B Shetty; and film producer Ramesh Reddy.

Music wizard Arjun Janya is all set to release his directorial debut multi-starrer film '45' on Christmas Day. The film, set for a pan-India release, is produced by Uma Ramesh Reddy's Sooraj Productions. The star-studded film has Dr Shivarajkumar, Upendra and Raj B Shetty sharing screen space in the lead. Sudharani makes a cameo appearance. Rajendran, Jishu Sengupta and Kaustubha Mani complete the star cast.

The film's songs and lavish graphics shown in the recently-released trailer have raised expectations among audiences. Along with directing the movie, Arjun Janya has also composed its songs written M C Bijju and Nishan Rai. Anil Kumar has scripted the movie's dialogues. Cinematography is by Satya Hegde while K M Prakash is the editor.

The film received a U/A certificate.

Lavish VFX

A collaboration with MARZ, led by VFX expert Justin Bunt, known for his graphics in Hollywood blockbusters, has given the film a world-class technical touch. "Audiences will be treated to a new format of graphics in '45'. Some sequences promise a new experience in movies", said Justin.

"It's a fantasy Kannada film made in a different format. It narrates the story through the acting of Dr Shivarajkumar, Upendra and Raj B Shetty. It is an experiment that the audiences will like", said Arjun Janya. Movie fans are waiting for the release of '45' with the trailer and hype raising expectations. The all-star cast with Dr Shivarajkumar's role as a lady Bharatanatyam dancer, unique songs and slick VFX are all set to turn this movie into big-ticket entertainment treat to end the year with.

Scan QR code to view trailer

Curated by DH Brandspot

MOVIE R|E|V|I|E|W|S

Panahi's tale of doubt, memory and consequences

AMOGH RAVINDRA

Jafar Panahi's latest offering 'It Was Just an Accident'.

★★★★½

It Was Just an Accident

Persian, Azerbaijani (Amazon Prime Rentals)

Director: Jafar Panahi

Cast: Vahid Mobasseri, Mariam Afshari, Ebrahim Azizi

It starts as a small inconvenience. A car breaks down. A man waits. Then 'It Was Just an Accident' tightens the screws and doesn't loosen them. Iranian film auteur Jafar Panahi turns the ordinary into a moral trap, where memory lies and justice comes without instructions. The film doesn't announce itself. It simply makes one uncomfortable and lets that feeling sit.

Vahid, a former political prisoner, is convinced he has found the man who once tortured him. Not by face, but by sound. A limp. A prosthetic leg. That's enough to tear open wounds that never healed. He abducts the stranger with the intent to kill him, then hesitates. Doubt arrives quickly and refuses to leave. Other ex-prisoners enter the picture, each carrying their own version of the past, none fully reliable. What unfolds isn't a whodunnit so much as a should-we-do-this-at-all. The film keeps circling uncomfortable questions, carefully avoiding easy answers.

The performances are quiet and restrained. The speeches are not grand, and emotions come out in small moments, shaped by exhaustion and hidden anger. Panahi's direction is simple and precise. The desert and the van feel both wide and confining, a space that suits characters trapped in their memories. Dark humour appears at odd moments, not to relax the tension, but to show how strange life becomes when morality starts to fall apart. By the end, the film leaves you shaken. There is no clear ending, and that's why it works. Panahi trusts the audience to sit with the discomfort. It's quiet, confident, and deeply moving. Nothing here is accidental.

Witty family drama on society and politics

PRANATI A S

Farida Jalal and Dolly Ahluwalia.

★★★½

The Great Shamsuddin Family

Hindi (JioHotstar)

Director: Anusha Rizvi

Cast: Kritika Kamra, Shreya Dhanwanthary, Sheeba Chaddha, Farida Jalal, Dolly Ahluwalia

Anusha Rizvi, who made 'Peepli Live', is back with her second feature, 'The Great Shamsuddin Family'. It is a heartwarming comedy-drama set amid India's present socio-political climate.

The story unfolds in Bani's (played by Kritika Kamra) Delhi apartment, where she is racing against time to meet an important deadline. Her plans are disrupted when her cousin Iram (Shreya Dhanwanthary) arrives with an emergency, followed by her older sister Humaira (Juhi Babbar). Soon, one after another, her entire *khandaan* (family), mostly women, lands in Bani's home. Each entry is hilarious and, if you watch closely, reveals a lot.

'The Great Shamsuddin Family' draws from real-life incidents and incorporates themes of intolerance and mob violence to examine the social-politics of today's India through the lens of a Muslim family.

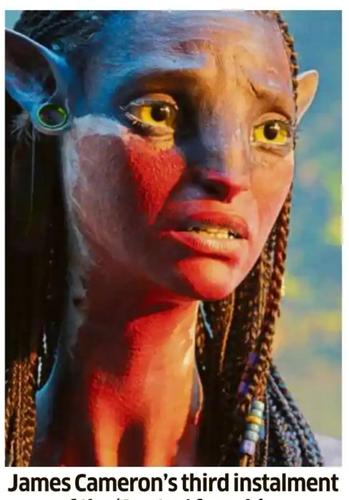
We have Bani, who believes she can find a better life in the US, a Zoheb and his Hindu girlfriend Pallavi, who want to fight the mob for their love, and Humaira, who is worried about her husband, who is perhaps caught in a communal clash. Then there are the aunties — Akko (Farida Jalal), Asiya (Dolly Ahluwalia), Safiya (Sheeba Chaddha), and Nabeela (Natasha Rastogi) — who turn up one by one and are a delight to watch.

Nearly every depiction of a Muslim family on Indian screens carries traces of prejudice, from stereotypes about how they look to assumptions about the community's conservative nature. This is often mixed with political narratives around triple talaq, and the supposed need to 'save' Muslim women from their own community. The Shamsuddin family, however, looks like any other Indian family. Perhaps this is how people appear when they are not reduced to stereotypes on screen.

One of the striking metaphors in the film is Humayun's Tomb, which stands as a silent witness to the atrocities faced by Muslims in the country, while contributing significantly to Delhi's tourism!

'Avatar' sequel has spark, but fails to take off

TAHER AHMED


James Cameron's third instalment of the 'Avatar' franchise.

★★½

Avatar: Fire and Ash

English (Theatres)

Director: James Cameron

Cast: Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldaña, Sigourney Weaver, Stephen Lang, Kate Winslet

It would be fair to say the audience has a lot of expectations from the 'Avatar' brand, the half-packed theatre at 6 am being a testament to this. Starting from where the previous movie ended, 'Fire and Ash' charts the path taken by the Sully family as they battle a common foe and an unexpected new enemy.

Jake (Sam Worthington) and Neytiri (Zoe Saldaña) face conflicted emotions following the loss of their son, with Neytiri's heart filled with hate for humankind, even as Spider (Jack Champion) continues to form deeper bonds with Jake's kids.

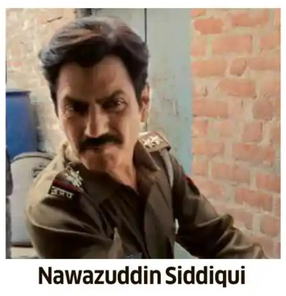
Jake continues to inspire his people, even as Colonel Miles (Stephen Lang) is hot on his trail to capture him and give the sky people unhindered access to "amrita". Realising his futile efforts to defeat Jake, Miles plots to weaponise the Mangkwan clan, led by Varang (Oona Chaplin), a ruthless leader who feels she has been betrayed by Eywa.

While the makers intend to offer a depth of emotions ranging from parenthood to brotherhood to love and sacrifice, these emotions don't do justice on screen, failing to evoke a strong reaction. There are also multiple sub plots, and the movie feels repetitive, with Eywa ultimately coming to save everyone. The theme revolves around the endless greed of the sky people and Jake's attempt to save the original way of life of the people, which is what we have seen in the past two movies as well.

The visuals are the standout, which are mesmerising in certain parts. However, on the whole, 'Avatar: Fire and Ash' fails to ignite and merely remains a muted spark.

Dark and uneven but watchable police procedural

RASHMI VASUDEVA


Nawazuddin Siddiqui

★★½

Raat Akeli Hai: The Bansal Murders

Hindi (Netflix)

Director: Honey Trehan

Cast: Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Rajat Kapoor, Deepti Naval, Chitrangda Singh

'Raat Akeli Hai' (2020) was a sleeper hit, and rightly so. Atmospheric, taut, and powered by pitch-perfect performances, it won over both audiences and critics. Five years later, the night has arrived again — darker, more sinister — but alas, with a screenplay that is not a patch on the original.

The story has a lot of meat, sorry, bodies. Loosely based on the Burari deaths (there is no such admission by the team), this time, Inspector Jatil Yadav (Nawazuddin Siddiqui) stumbles upon the massacre of the Bansal family at their farmhouse. The circumstances immediately point to an inside job. Soon, a Guru-ma (Deepti Naval, in a strangely muted role) enters the picture. Family secrets tumble out one by one, while suspicion shifts between family members and domestic staff. Behind it all lies a familiar stew of power plays, murky deals and bitter property disputes.

The film plays out largely as a procedural, but the nervous unpredictability that made the first edition so compelling is sorely missed. There is a clear attempt at social commentary, and the screenplay would have benefited had it trusted visual storytelling more instead of spelling things out. The pace slackens intermittently, and several scenes feel repetitive. Despite these shortcomings, the film remains watchable.

Nawazuddin Siddiqui is the film's biggest asset. He slips into the role of Jatil with an ease we have come to expect. His eyes do much of the acting — the resigned fatigue, the scorn for his superiors, and the irritation-laced affection for his mother (played with warmth by Ila Arun) conveyed through a glance or two. Revathi, as the forensic doctor, is a welcome surprise.

Yahana Arora (right) and S Jeevith pose with their spoils.

Jeevith, Yahana emerge champs

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka's S Jeevith completed a fine double by securing the boys' singles title while state-mate Yahana Arora captured the corresponding girls' title in the CRS Trust AITA U-16 Championship Series Tennis tournament here on Friday.

A day after wearing the boys' doubles crown, Jeevith added the singles title to it by trouncing Tanish Dasari 6-4, 6-0.

Results (finals): Boys' singles: S Jeevith (KAR) bt Tanish Dasari (KAR) 6-4, 6-0. **Girls' singles:** Yahana Arora (KAR) bt Kushi Budhya (KAR) 4-6, 6-2, 6-2. **Doubles:** Akriti E/ Sahara Jayanth (KAR) bt Raina Saraf/ Nitya Goyal (KAR) 6-1, 6-4.

Karnataka in quarters after settling for draw

BENGALURU, DHNS: Skipper Anvay Dravid's fifty in the second innings showed the way as Karnataka qualified for the quarterfinal after settling for a draw on the fourth and final day of their Elite Group C match against Maharashtra after taking the first-innings honours in the Cooch Behar Trophy in Mysuru on Friday.

The visitors Maharashtra, resuming at overnight score of 176/6, declared on 239 for seven in 72 overs, thanks to lower-order contributions from Arqam Syed (69 not out) and Suashik Jagtap (40). Karnataka's Eesa Puthige finished with figures of 4/42.

Chasing 224 for victory, Karnataka lost opener Dhruv Krishnan in the second ball of the chase but four of the top-five in Aadesh D Urs (37), Manikanth Shivanand (47), Anvay (57) and Varun Patel (41) ensured the hosts were on track in their pursuit for a win but in the end fell three runs short.

Brief scores: Maharashtra: 304 all out & (O/n: 176/6) 239/7 decl in 72 overs (Shubham Kadam 25, Sushrut Sawant 30, Samkit Surana 30, Arqam Syed 69 n.o., Suashik Jagtap 40; Eesa Puthige 4-42, Rathan BR 2-47) vs Karnataka: 320 all out & 221/7 in 82 overs (Aadesh D Urs 37, Manikanth Shivanand 47, Anvay Dravid 57, Varun Patel 41; Arqam Syed 4-33, Suashik Jagtap 2-33).

Atharv five-for hands Karnataka slight advantage

BENGALURU, DHNS: Atharv S Deshpande picked up a five-wicket haul as Karnataka gained a slight advantage against Baroda on the second day of their Elite group match of the Vijay Merchant Trophy in Raipur on Friday.

At stumps, Karnataka were 6/1 in five overs, leading Baroda by 62 runs, with Rohit M Reddy (3 not out) and Samarth M Kulkarni (0 not out) in the middle.

Earlier on, resuming at their overnight score of 225 for nine, Karnataka were bowled out for 234 in 91.3 overs. Baroda, in their first essay, were shot out for 177 in 73 overs with Athrav (5/45), Arush Jain (2/25) and Suvik Gill (2/22) sharing nine wickets between them.

Brief scores: Karnataka: (O/n: 225/9) 234 all out in 91.3 overs (Syaamantak Anirudh 44, Sukurth 107; Pranav Khandelwal 3-36, Sumit Makwana 2-48, Yuvraj Sinh 3-72) & 6/1 in 5 overs vs Baroda: 177 all out in 73 overs (Kavya Makwana 31, Tilak Patel 57; Atharv S Deshpande 5-45, Arush Jain 2-25, Suvik Gill 2-22).

Lakshita, Sharvan win

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Army pair of Lakshita Bishnoi and Sharvan Kumar overcame the challenge from Haryana's Suruchi Singh and Samrat Rana to clinch the 10m air pistol mixed team gold in the National Shooting Championships here on Saturday.

Laskhita and Sharvan defeated the India team regulars 16–10 to seal the title.

TENNIS WTL

Svitolina wins battle of spouses

But husband Monfils' Eagles storm into Saturday's final

Elina Svitolina (left) and Yuki Bhambri of Hawks during their mixed doubles match against Eagles' Gael Monfils and Shrivalli Bhamidipaty in the World Tennis League at the KSLTA's SM Krishna stadium in Bengaluru on Friday. DH PHOTO/ B K JANARDHAN

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

On one side was Elina Svitolina whose poise, elegance and friendly smile have stolen the fans' hearts here this week.

On the opposite side was Gael Monfils whose showmanship and athleticism, even at the ripe age 39 for a tennis pro, have captivated the crowd's attention.

On Friday, the third day of the World Tennis League at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium, the husband-wife duo -- Monfils and Svitolina -- were engaged in a duel for their respective teams - Eagles and Hawks.

Though the Ukrainian, paired with home boy Yuki Bhambri, defeated the Frenchman and his on-court partner Shrivalli Bhamidipaty in the opening mixed doubles tie, by the end of the four-set round robin contest, Monfils' Eagles scored a 22-12 win to enter the final on Saturday.

"A happy wife is a happy life," conceded Monfils after ending on the losing side of the match-up against Svitolina that left everyone in splits.

That happiness for Svitolina's Hawks, however, was short-lived as Eagles' Shrivalli, India's no. 2 female singles player, stole the limelight in her first on-court appearance in three days.

After making a mental note of all the pro tips team lead Monfils has been feeding throughout the week, the 24-year-old Shrivalli put together in her best overall game to outwit her younger opponent and compatriot Maaya Rajeswaran Revathi 6-2. Later in the women's doubles, the Hyderabad girl joined forces with Spain's Paula Badosa to secure a dominating 6-3 victory over Maaya and Svitolina.

As a calm Shrivalli enjoyed her moment under the sun, her team-mate Sumit Nagal barely broke a sweat in his 6-1 win over Denis Shapovalov who struggled to move on the court due to a sore neck. Eagles' Monfils volunteered to help the Canadian, the face of Hawks, in one of his service games as the duo played a fun two versus one game against Sumit - the only game that Shapovalov managed to pull off thanks to some assistance from the ever-considerate Monfils.

Kites fly into title clash

Lying at the bottom of the table following two defeats on the opening two days, Aussie Mavericks Kites needed to win 20 games out of four sets to have a chance at making it to the final.

The Nick Kyrgios-led Kites rose to the occasion and turned the tables to post a 24-19 win over Daniil Medvedev's Falcons to march into the title round.

Results: AOS Eagles bt VB Realty Hawks 22-12 (Gael Monfils/ Shrivalli Bhamidipaty lt to Yuki Bhambri/ Elina Svitolina 4-6; Sumit Nagal bt Denis Shapovalov 6-1; Shrivalli bt Maaya Rajeswaran Revathi 6-2; Shrivalli/ Paula Badosa bt Maaya/ Svitolina 6-3).

Aussie Mavericks Kites bt Game Changers Falcons 24-19 (Marta Kostyuk bt Magda Linette 6-4; Dhakshineswar Suresh/ Kostyuk bt Rohan Bopanna/ Sahaja Yamalapalli 6-4; Nick Kyrgios/ Suresh lt to Daniil Medvedev/ Bopanna 6-7; Suresh bt Medvedev 6-4).

Satwik-Chirag nail their nemesis

Indians punch semis ticket with win over Aaron & Soh

HANGZHOU, PTI

India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty maintained their unbeaten run to storm into the knockout stage of the season-ending BWF World Tour Finals, beating arch-rivals Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik of Malaysia in their final Group B match here on Friday.

Seeded third, Satwik and Chirag showed composure and tactical acumen after dropping the opening game to edge out the Paris Olympic bronze medallists 17-21, 21-18, 21-15 in a pulsating 70-minute contest. They are the first Indian men's pair to reach the semifinals of the season-ending event.

The only unbeaten pair in Group B, the Indian duo came into the match needing just one game to seal a semifinal berth, despite trailing 5-11 in head-to-head meetings against the Malaysians. They did far more than required, adjusting their strategy mid-match to wrest control from their opponents.

After conceding the first game, Satwik and Chirag held their positions better, varied their returns and mixed lifts with sharp drives to disrupt Aaron and Soh's rhythm.

It was another absorbing contest, played at furious pace from the outset, as both pairs focused on getting the service and receive right before working sharp, awkward angles to unsettle each other. The early exchanges were intense and even, with neither side giving away easy points as the score stayed locked at 6-6.

The Malaysians then inched ahead to 9-6, but Satwik and Chirag responded with a targeted assault on Soh Wooi Yik to draw level after Aaron Chia went wide. A net error from Aaron made it 10-10 before Soh produced a steep smash to give Malaysia a slender one-point cushion at the interval.

Post-break, a couple of errors from Satwik and then Chirag allowed the Malaysians to stretch the lead to 13-10. Mixing placements with controlled aggression rather than outright power, Aaron and Soh moved to 15-11 and then surged to 18-12, with Soh's sharp backhand doing the damage.

Satwik landed a fine smash but was caught in a flat exchange as Malaysia earned three game points, sealing the opening game at the first opportunity.

The second game followed a similar script, with both pairs keeping the shuttle flat and attacking early. A thunderous smash from Aaron helped Malaysia edge ahead, but the Indians stayed in touch and drew parity with a series of punishing returns. Satwik and Chirag briefly took control by varying lifts with sharp drives and smashes.

The momentum swung repeatedly before the Indians wrested back control late in the game, saving themselves with composure and heavy hitting. Despite a brief interruption that saw Chirag being shown a yellow card for delaying play, the Indians unleashed a barrage of smashes to force the decider and, in the process, secure their knockout berth.

India's Chirag Shetty (right) returns while team-mate Satwiksairaj Rankireddy watches during their match against Malaysia's Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik in Hangzhou on Friday. AFP

ISL clubs propose new model

NEW DELHI, PTI

Indian Super League (ISL) clubs on Friday formally proposed a fundamental restructuring of the country's top-tier professional football league, seeking perpetual operational and commercial rights for a club-owned league model while retaining the All India Football Federation (AIFF) as the sport's regulator.

The proposal was submitted on the final day of the deadline given to ISL clubs to present a plan for the formation of a consortium to run the league, the 2025-26 season of which is yet to commence.

"...we write to formally place before the All India Football Federation (AIFF), and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (Ministry), a detailed proposal for restructuring the ownership, governance, and operational framework of India's top-tier professional football league," the clubs said in a joint letter addressed to the Sports Ministry and AIFF.

"This proposal is guided by the shared objective of safeguarding continuity of elite football in India, strengthening institutional governance, ensuring long-term financial sustainability of the league, aligning with globally accepted best practices, and enabling AIFF to focus more effectively on its core mandate of regulation, governance, grassroots development, and national team excellence." The proposal comes amid uncertainty surrounding Indian football, with governance challenges, the expiry of commercial agreements and ongoing proceedings before the Supreme Court concerning amendments to the AIFF constitution.

The clubs proposed that "AIFF grant the rights to operate, manage, and commercially exploit India's top-tier professional football league to a dedicated league company (League Company) in perpetuity, subject to continued compliance with AIFF, AFC, and FIFA statutes and regulations."

ISL clubs have been invited to attend attend the upcoming AIFF Annual General Meeting on Saturday.

U-19 Asia Cup: Vihaan helps India set up final with Pakistan

DUBAI, PTI: Vice-captain Vihaan Malhotra's exhilarating strokeplay was well complemented by Aaron George's composure as India set up an U-19 Asia Cup summit date with arch-rivals Pakistan after crushing Sri Lanka colts by eight wickets in a rain-curtailed semifinal here on Friday.

After rain reduced the match to 20-overs per side, the Indian bowling unit, which has been spot on throughout the tournament, restricted Sri Lanka to 138 for 8 in 20 overs.

In reply, left-handed Malhotra (61 not out off 45 balls), who was snapped by RCB at the recently-concluded IPL mini-auction, flicked and pulled with ease to hit a couple of sixes apart from muscling a few boundaries.

His partner and India's crisis man in this event, George (58 not out off 49 balls), was technically perfect with his strokes as India chased down the target in 18 overs.

India's eighth appearance in the final was built on the unbroken 114-run stand for the third wicket between Malhotra and George.

In the other semifinal, Pakistan beat Bangladesh by eight wickets, and the bitter n

Brief scores: Sri Lanka U-19: 138/8 in 20 overs (Vimath Dinsara 32, Chamika Heenatigala 42, Sethmika Seneviratne 30; Henil Patel 2-31, Kanishk Chouhan 2-36) lt to India U-19: 139/2 in 18 overs (Aaron George 58 n.o., Vihaan Malhotra 61 n.o.; Rasith Nimsara 2-31) by 8 wkts. **PoM:** Vihaan Malhotra. **India's next match:** Dec 21 (Final vs Pakistan).

(From left) Aarnav N, Irene Anna Subhash and Siddharth Raja pose with their spoils.

Siddharth, Aarnav, Irene champs

BENGALURU, DHNS

Siddharth Raja scored a hard-fought 3-2 win over Ganesh Hiremath to clinch the non-medallist singles title in the CVL Shashtry memorial Karnataka State table tennis championship held at the Canara Union here on Friday.

Aarnav N too had to battle hard to wear the boys' under-17 singles crown, defeating Atharva Nawarange 2-11, 11-7, 11-9, 7-11, 11-9.

Irene Anna Subhash produced a polished performance to capture the girls' under-15 singles title, beating Mihika Udupa 11-13, 11-9, 11-7, 11-9.

LOCAL TABLE TENNIS

Results (all finals): Non-medallist singles: Siddharth Raja bt Ganesh Hiremath 9-11, 11-2, 11-6, 9-11, 11-7. **Boys: U-17 Singles:** Aarnav N bt Atharva Nawarange 2-11, 11-7, 11-9, 7-11, 11-9. **Girls: U-15 singles:** Irene Anna Subhash bt Mihika Udupa 11-13, 11-9, 11-7, 11-9.

Karnataka's Sidhant storms into semis

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka's Sidhant Nathan, seeded 28th, stormed into the semifinals of the IGU 124th Amateur Golf Championships after stunning fourth seed Deepak Yadav in the 19th hole at the Tollygunge Club in Kolkata.

In the semifinals on Saturday, Sidhant will take on 16th-seeded Sukhman Singh of Uttar Pradesh. Sukhman edged out eighth seed Arjun Singh 2&1. Earlier in the morning session, Sidhant beat Harjai Milkha Singh 2&1 in the pre-quarterfinals.

The other semifinal, which promises to be an equally exciting affair, will be fought between second Danish Verma and third-seeded Harman Sachdeva. While Danish trounced Ribhav Verma 5&4, Sachdeva held his nerve to defeat Angad Singh 1-up.

"Overall it was a tough start for me. It is on the second day that I turned my game and made the cut just on the line. The rounds have been competitive," said Sidhant

Saachin shines for DPS North

BENGALURU, DHNS

Saachin Suresh Araganji continued his fine form with consecutive centuries as his latest 132-run knock helped his side Delhi Public School, North to a massive 134-run victory over Vidyashilp Academy in the Under-14 School Division I tournament for the BT Ramaiah Shield here.

Saachin's knock helped DPS post 313/6 in 50 overs with his team-mate Sachith Yadav contribution being 48.

In response, Vidyashilp could only manage 134/9 with Nandan Kashyap taking a 4/26.

LOCAL CRICKET

Brief scores: Delhi PS, North: 313/6 in 50 overs (Saachin Suresh Araganji 132, Sachith M Yadav 48, Jash Karia 38) bt Vidyashilp Academy: 134/9 in 50 overs (K Mokshith Reddy 36; Nandan P Kashyap 4-26, Vivaan P Jana 3-27). Max Muller HS: 293/8 in 50 overs (Athreya Bhat 78, Cheran Tej Raju C 54, Suyog Gowda S 38; Samrat Aditya P 3-48, Aarya Raj 3-51) bt Jain Heritage School: 140 all out in 35.5 overs (Arnav Kalyan 56 n.o., Aarya Raj 29; M Neeraj 5-26). Holy Saint: 214/9 in 50 overs (Gagan P Maiya 101, Mohammed Yaseen 34; Vinjamuri Rushyanth 3-44, Sai Yashmith Selapaka 2-34) bt Delhi PS, Electronic City: 148 all out in 47.5 overs (Rayan S Patil 37, Sai Yashmith Selapaka 35; Mohammad Uzer 4-26, Chirantan Chinmaya Mangalore 3-34).

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ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಚೇರಿ ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಮಬದಕಾನಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ. 3 ಬ್ಯಾಹಟ್ಟಿ.
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e-mail : knnl@knnlindia.com e-mail : eeknnl3byt@gmail.com
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ಸಂ.ಕನೀನಿನಿ/ಮಬದವಿ–3/ಎ.ಇ–2/ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ/2025–26/1722 ದಿನಾಂಕ:19–12–2025
ಮುಂದೂಡಿಕೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ-ಪ್ರೆಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)
ಈ ಕಚೇರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗಳ ಸಂ.1684 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11/12/2025 ರಲ್ಲಿ ಕರೆಯಲಾದ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು ಹಾಗೂ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂಬರಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿಂದ ಮುಂದೂಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದರ ಬದಲಾದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ ಮತ್ತು ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿದೆ.
ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು : Flood Control and Flood Management for Tuparihalla phase-II upto Confluence of Bennihalla from Km 0.00 to Km 90.00. (WI NO: KNNL/2024-25/FP/WORK_INDENT2891)
ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ: ರೂ. 135.36 ಕೋಟಿ + ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಟಿ
ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ: ರೂ. 1.36 ಕೋಟಿ.
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೆಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ (http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ಮುಖಾಂತರ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20–12–2025 ರಂದು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21–01–2026ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ರೀ ಬಿಡ್ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17–01–2026 ರಂದು ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ, 4ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಕಾಫಿ ಬೋರ್ಡ್‌ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಂ:1, ಡಾ:ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ ವೀಧಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560001. ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28–01–2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಮಬದಕಾನಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ:3, ಬ್ಯಾಹಟ್ಟಿ ಇವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಕಚೇರಿ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಸಹಾಯಕರ ಮೊ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 9902666423 ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.
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ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
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ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್/ಧಾರವಾಡ/1009/ಮಣಿಜಾಲ್/2025–26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ
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ಸಂ.ಸ.ಅ.ಸಂ./ವಿಪ–137/ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15–12–2025
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ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ಸದ್ರಿ ದಿನಾಂಕದಂದು ಯಾವುದೇ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಾರದೇ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ, ಇದೇ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ಈ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುವ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡಂತೆ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20–01–2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ವರೆಗೆ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುವುದು.
ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಕುಂದಾಪುರ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕುಂದಾಪುರ. ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂ.: 08254: 230349 ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 232720
ಸಹಿ/– ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಯವರ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಸಹಾಯಕರು, ಕುಂದಾಪುರ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕುಂದಾಪುರ.
ವಾಸಾಇ/ಸನೀಲು/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/592/25–26 ದಿ: 19.12.2025

ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ
ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–562110
ನಂ.ದೇಪು/ತಾ.ಶಾ/ಟೆ.ಪ್ರ/ಸಿಆರ್/06/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19.12.2025
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ (ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್) ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)
(ಸ್ಟಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ KW-1 & KW-2 ರ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳಂತೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ)
ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ವಿಷಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ, ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಪುರಸಭೆಯ ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಪುರಸಭೆಗೆ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪುರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿ, 2024–25 ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ. ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಅನುದಾನ ಮತ್ತು 2019–20ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಿಂದ 2022–23 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನವರೆಗೆ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಹಾಗೂ ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ. ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ ಡಾಂಬರೀಕರಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, ಜಿ.ಐ. ಶೆಡ್‌ನ ಅಂಗಡಿ ಮಳಿಗೆ, ವೆಟ್ ಮಿಕ್ಸ್ ಹಾಕುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, ಸಿಲ್ಫ್ ತೆಗೆಯುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, ಕೇಬಲ್, ಜಿ.ಐ. ಪೈಪ್ ಖರೀದಿಸುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಚರಂಡಿ ಮೇಲೆ ಸ್ಲ್ಯಾಬ್ ಹಾಕುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ: 214.88 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ ಒಟ್ಟು 11 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಏಕ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು.
ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: (As per KPPP Portal ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: (As per KPPP Portal) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಪುರಸಭೆಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆಯನ್ನು ಸಂರ್ಪಕಿಸುವುದು.
ಸಹಿ/– ದುರ್ಗಾಶ್ರೀ. ಎನ್, ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಪುರಸಭೆ, ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ
ಸಹಿ/– ಶಿವಮೂರ್ತಿ ಎ. (ಕೆ.ಎಂ.ಎ.ಎಸ್) ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಪುರಸಭೆ, ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ
ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ವಾಪ್ರ/4540/ಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಸಿ/2025–26

IN BRIEF

Vandita hits Punjab for a six

▸ Vandita Rao bagged a six-wicket haul, besides chipping in with 32, to fashion Karnataka's massive 104-run win in the BCCI women's under-19 tournament for the One-Day Trophy in Hyderabad on Friday.

Batting first, fighting Karnataka posted a competitive 199/9 in 50 overs with Karnika Karthick (57) and Shreya Chavan (45) being the major contributors.

Brief scores: Karnataka: 199/9 in 50 overs (Shreya S Chavan 45, Karnika Karthick 57, Vandita K Rao 32; Harman 4-32, Alice 3-17) bt Punjab: 95 all out in 28.3 overs (Harsimrat Kaur 26; Veda Varshini V 2-15, Vandita K Rao 6-17).

Hrithik shines with 5 goals

▸ Hrithik Ayyappa scored five goals as St Joseph's University trounced St Aloysius College, Mangaluru 9-0 in the Dr Mumtaz Ahmed Khan inaugural boys' inter-collegiate hockey tournament on Friday, reports DHNS from Bengaluru.

Results: Al-Ameen College: 6 (Lithu 4th, 26th, Kiran Kumar 10th, Shiva Kumar 13th, 31st, Raju 14th) bt Sapient College, Mysuru: 0; St Joseph's University: 9 (Hrithik Ayyappa 6th, 9th, 21st, 32nd, 42nd, Kaverappa 14th, 48th, 49th, Varun 40th) bt St Aloysius College, Mangaluru: 1 (Anralonna M 10th); Al-Ameen College: 6 (Shiva Kumar 3rd, 8th, Kiran Kumar 6th, Shrinivas 11th, Akhil 27th) bt Christ University: 0; Sapient College, Mysuru: 2 (Sanketh NP 15th, Suprith 40th) bt St Aloysius College, Mangaluru: 0.

RSHC B edge BCYA B

▸ Karthik's 39th-minute goal helped Rising Star Hockey Club B edge BYCA B 1-0 in the KSHA C Division Hockey League Championship, reports DHNS.

Result: Rising Star Hockey Club B: 1 (Karthik 39th) bt BCYA B: 0.

NZC chief Weenink quits

▸ The boss of New Zealand cricket resigned on Friday after a long and bitter dispute with players and member associations over the future of T20 cricket in the country, reports AFP from New Zealand.

Heart for Calcutta Oaks

KOLKATA SELECTIONS

Heart, from the stables of Deepesh Narredu and to be ridden by Suraj Narredu, will garner the maximum support in the Usha Stud Calcutta Oaks, the feature event of the Kolkata races on Saturday.

The first race starts at 1:30 pm.

1. Ins Hoogly Cup - 1200M: Legacy 1, Contessina 2, Three Little Words 3.
2. Navy Cup - 1600M: Hermod 1, True Faith 2, Seasmoke 3.
3. Misty Melody Handicap - 2400M: Multi Success 1, Ksepiman 2, Star Power 3.
4. Statue Of Liberty Handicap - 2400M: Gold Empire 1, Zarak 2, Golden Warrior 3.
5. Usha Stud Calcutta Oaks - 2400M: Heart 1, Xanthe 2. Conjurer 3.
6. Tiger Tops Handicap - 1400M: Godsend Divine 1, Simran's Attitude 2, Happy Morning 3.
Day's best: Multi Success. **Jackpot:** 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6. **I treble:** 1, 2 & 3. **II treble:** 4, 5 & 6.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

3rd Ashes: Australia vs England **(day 4, 5:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

3rd Test: New Zealand vs West Indies **(day 4, 3:30 am, Sunday)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 5, FanCode.**

FOOTBALL

EPL: Newcastle United vs Chelsea **(6:00 pm)**, Bournemouth vs Burnley, Brighton vs Sunderland, Man City vs West Ham, Wolves vs Brentford **(all 8:30 pm)**, Tottenham vs Liverpool **(11:00 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

La Liga: Real Oviedo vs Celta Vigo **(6:30 pm)**, Levante vs Real Sociedad **(8:45 pm)**, Osasuna vs Deportivo Alaves **(11:00 pm)**, Real Madrid vs Sevilla **(1:30 am, Sunday)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

TENNIS

World Tennis League: Finals **(6:00 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 5, FanCode.**

BADMINTON

World Tour Finals: Semifinals **(7:00 am onwards)** **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

No shocks expected as selectors pick squad for T20 WC

Surya & Gill's form a concern but rest of the team appears in good shape

MADHU JAWALI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Consider the form of two batters over the last several T20 Internationals that many cricketers would consider themselves fortunate to play across their entire careers.

Batter 1: He has gone without a half-century in his last 24 matches, comprising 21 innings. He averages 13.27 runs per innings with a strike rate of 119.50.

Batter 2: He too has gone without a half-century in his last 15 matches. He averages 24.25 with a strike rate of 137.26.

Would they be retained in the squad for an event as significant as the ICC T20 World Cup? The magnitude of the tournament becomes even greater when one considers that the team is defending its title on home turf.

India are hosting the biennial event along with Sri Lanka, and under normal circumstances would have gladly left out those two batters. However, they cannot, as they are the team's captain and vice-captain, Suryakumar Yadav and Shubman Gill.

Suryakumar and Gill should have been the main points of debate ahead of team selection on Saturday in Mumbai by the Ajit Agarkar-led panel, but it is unlikely that any serious deliberation will take place over the struggling duo.

Skipper Suryakumar Yadav (left) and his deputy Shubman Gill have been woefully out of form, raising India's concerns ahead of the T20 World Cup in February. PTI

In a way, by anointing Gill as vice-captain and handing him more responsibility than he can perhaps handle, the selectors have tied their own hands when it comes to the Punjab cricketer's selection. His position becomes untenable, especially against the backdrop of Sanju Samson being unjustly pushed down the order and eventually out of the playing XI, and the compelling case presented by Yashasvi Jaiswal with his all-format adaptability.

It is a travesty that someone like Ishan Kishan, who set the Syed Mushtaq Ali tournament alight with a competition-high 517 runs at a strike rate of around 198, would be fortunate just to make the standby list.

With Suryakumar's and Gill's names written in ink at the top, there is little room to manoeuvre with the rest of the squad that played against South Africa. The squad for the five-match series against New Zealand will also be picked at the same meeting, but it is a no-brainer that it will be identical to the one chosen for the World Cup unless there are injury concerns. India will also have the opportunity to replace any member until the start of the event.

Abhishek Sharma remains unshakable at the top of the order, while Tilak Varma is locked in at either No. 3 or No. 4, depending on where Suryakumar decides to bat. The top four will be followed by a group of all-rounders in Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel and Washington Sundar, with first-choice wicketkeeper-batter Jitesh Sharma and his backup, Samson, slotted in between. Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh and Harshit Rana will complete the pace-bowling line-up, while Varun Chakravarthy and Kuldeep Yadav will be the two specialist spinners.

Likely squad: Suryakumar Yadav (captain), Shubman Gill (vice-captain), Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Sanju Samson (wk), Axar Patel, Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Harshit Rana, Washington Sundar, Varun Chakravarthy, Kuldeep Yadav. **Likely standbys**: Yashasvi Jaiswal, Ishan Kishan, Rinku Singh, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Prasidh Krishna.

Rishabh Pant

Pant to lead Delhi, Kohli to play 2-3 games

NEW DELHI, PTI: India's Test vice-captain Rishabh Pant has been named captain of the Delhi team with stalwart Virat Kohli also set to be available for a couple games in the upcoming National One-Day Championship for the Vijay Hazare Trophy starting December 24.

Apart from Pant and Kohli, even pacer Harshit Rana, veterans Ishant Sharma and Navdeep Saini have also expressed their willingness to play in the tournament. The DDCA, however, didn't put the names of Pant, Kohli and Rana in the 16-member list as they won't be available for the entire tournament and are likely to play two to three games before the New Zealand ODI series starting January 11, 2026.

Delhi will play their matches in Bengaluru.

Regular squad: Ayush Badoni (vice-captain), Arpit Rana, Yash Dhull, Sarthak Ranjan, Priyansh Arya, Tejasvi Singh Dahiya, Nitish Rana, Hrithik Shokeen, Harsh Tyagi, Simarjeet Singh, Prince Yadav, Divij Mehra, Ayush Doseja, Vaibhav Kandpal, Rohan Rana, Anuj Rawat (wk).
Additional players: Virat Kohli, Rishabh Pant (capt), Navdeep Saini, Harshit Rana, Ishant Sharma.

Rohit to miss games

Prominent India players such as Rohit Sharma, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Suryakumar Yadav will not compete in at least the first two matches of the Vijay Hazare Trophy as the selectors are keen to blood youngsters in the Mumbai side.

CRICKET FIFTH T20I

Pandya, Tilak seal it in style for India

Duo slam scorching fifties, Varun bags four wickets to slay South Africa

AHMEDABAD, PTI

Rampant India rode on a smashing fifties from Hardik Pandya, Tilak Varma and Varun Chakravarthy's four-for to thump South Africa by 30 runs and end 2025 with a 3-1 series victory in the fifth and final T20I here on Friday.

Pandya went hammer and tongs for a 16-ball half-century -- the second fastest for India -- while Tilak made a fluent 73 to lift India to a daunting 231/5. In reply, South Africa were on track as long as Quinton de Kock (65) was in the middle, but lost seven wickets for 81 runs and finished at 201/8.

With India holding Jasprit Bumrah (4-0-17-2) back for later stages, De Kock went after Arshdeep Singh (1/47) as he smacked six fours and a six in two overs from the left-arm pacer in Powerplay to set the tone for the Proteas.

But in a lopsided approach chasing 230 plus, De Kock alone did the heavy-lifting in the Powerplay as Reeza Hendricks (13) had another disappointing outing. His stay was ended with a brilliant one-handed grab from Shivam Dube at midwicket for Chakravarthy's first wicket.

Varun Chakravarthy (left) celebrates with Washington Sundar after bagging a wicket. PTI

Unfazed, De Kock continued to plunder runs as he and Dewald Brevis (31) put on 51 off 23 balls for the second wicket and by the halfway mark, South Africa had placed themselves perfectly to gun down the target.

With runs leaking from both ends, Bumrah foxed De Kock with one that had the left-handed giving a return catch which the Indian hung on to in the 11th over. In the next, Pandya (1/41) bounced out Brevis. But the Proteas were truly pegged back by Chakravarthy (4-0-53-4) who struck twice in as many balls in the 13th over.

He pinned Aiden Markram leg-before trying to paddle sweep and then produced a beauty that sneaked through Donovan Ferreira's defence to peg the off-stump.

David Miller's mishit off Arshdeep in the 15th over shut the doors on South Africa, who lost the plot from 120/1 in the 11th over.

Earlier, Pandya (63) hit the second fastest T20I fifty for India while Tilak produced a fluent 73 to help the hosts set a imposing 232-run target.

In a whirlwind knock laden with five sixes and as many fours, Pandya's seventh half-century (63 off 25 balls) came off only 16 balls—now the second-fastest ever for any Indian with Yuvraj Singh's 12-ball milestone against England at Kingsmead back in 2007, still perched firmly at the top.

He put on 105 off only 44 balls in a brilliant fourth wicket partnership with Tilak just when the momentum had slowed down for India, who finished at 231/5.

If Pandya produced a minute-a-mile knock, Tilak once again showed his repertoire of strokes around the ground making 73 off 42 balls with 10 fours and a six. Pandya walked out amidst chants of his name at his former IPL home ground as out-of-sorts India captain Suryakumar Yadav (5) endured yet another failure.

India's Hardik Pandya (left) smashed a 25-ball 63 while Tilak Varma hammered a 42-ball 73 in the fifth T20I against South Africa in Ahmedabad on Friday. PTI

SCOREBOARD

INDIA			
Samson b Linde	37	Brevis c Sundar b Pandya	31
Abhishek c de Kock b Bosch	34	Miller c Samson b Arshdeep	18
Tilak (run out)	73	Markram lbw Varun	6
Suryakumar c Miller b Bosch	5	Ferreira b Varun	0
Pandya c Hendricks b Baartman	63	Linde b Varun	16
Dube (not out)	10	Jansen c Samson b Bumrah	14
Jitesh (not out)	0	Bosch (not out)	17
Extras (LB-3, W-6)	9	Ngidi (not out)	7
TOTAL (for 5 wkts, 20 overs)	**231**	Extras (W-14)	14
		TOTAL (for 8 wkts, 20 overs)	**201**

Fall of wkts: 1-63, 2-97, 3-115, 4-220, 5-227.
Bowling: Lungi Ngidi 4-0-29-0, Marco Jansen 4-0-50-0, Ottneil Baartman 3-0-39-1, Corbin Bosch 3-0-44-2, Donovan Ferreira 2-0-20-0, George Linde 4-0-46-1.

SOUTH AFRICA

De Kock c&b Bumrah 65
Hendricks c Dube b Varun 13

Fall of wickets: 1-69, 2-120, 3-122, 4-135, 5-135, 6-154, 7-163, 8-177.
Bowling: Arshdeep 4-0-47-1, Sundar 4-0-30-0, Bumrah 4-0-17-2, Chakravarthy 4-0-53-4, Pandya 3-0-41-1, Abhishek 1-0-13-0.
Result: India won by 30 runs
Series: India win 5-match series 3-1.
PoM: Hardik Pandya.
PoS: Varun Chakravarthy.

SLC names Shanaka as capt for T20 WC

COLOMBO, PTI: Sri Lanka on Friday named Dasun Shanaka as skipper of its preliminary 25-member squad for the T20 World Cup as the co-hosts sacked Charith Asalanka as the leader of side.

Pramodaya Wickramasingha, who is back as the chairman of selectors, said Asalanka's poor batting form and Shanaka's experience in playing three previous World Cups were factors in making the decision.

Asalanka was speculated to be out-of-favour since he abandoned the white-ball tour to Pakistan last month over safety concerns following a suicide bomb explosion in Islamabad that killed nine people.

Sri Lanka: Dasun Shanaka (c), Pathum Nissanka, Kusal Mendis, Kamil Mishara, Kusal Perera, Dhananjaya de Silva, Niroshan Dickwella, Janith Liyanage, Charith Asalanka, Kamindu Mendis, Pavan Rathnayake, Sahan Arachchige, Wanindu Hasaranga, Dunith Wellalage, Milan Rathnayake, Nuwan Thushara, Eshan Malinga, Dushmantha Chameera, Pramod Madushan, Matheesha Pathirana, Dilshan Madushanka, Maheesh Theekshana, Dushan Hemantha, Vijayakanth Viyaskanth and Traveen Mathew.

Glanders outbreak: BTC cancels Winter Season

SIDNEY KIRAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

The stewards of the Bangalore Turf Club on Friday announced the cancellation of the remainder of the Winter Season after two horses were diagnosed with the deadly glanders disease.

"In view of the two horses stationed at Bangalore Turf Club Limited being tested positive for Glanders and further State Government of Karnataka issuing Notification dated 16.12.2025 declaring as notified area as per Section 6 of The Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act 2009 and Clause 4.2 of National Action Plan for Control and Eradication of Glanders in India (Revised 2025) by DAHD, GOI Delhi, the Stewards of the Bangalore Turf Club Limited have decided to cancel the remaining races of the ongoing Bangalore Winter Meeting 2025-26," said a statement from the club.

Ever since the Government Veterinary Hospital in Hebbal suspected five horses to be down with glanders infection — a deadly disease caused by the bacterium Burkholderia mallei that mainly affects horses, donkeys or mules — earlier this month, racing has been in limbo.

BTC sent 20 samples to the National Research Centre on Equines (NRCE) in Hisar, Haryana — the nodal agency for determining the outbreak of any zoonotic or any epidemic related to animals in the country — right after local tests as per government protocols. Of the 20, NRCE cleared 11 horses and asked BTC to send samples of nine horses again, of which one was confirmed glanders positive.

That horse was euthanised by the Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Department on Tuesday, which also declared the 2-kilometre radius around BTC as a "Notified Area". Restrictions were also imposed on the movement of horses in and out of BTC as per the 'National Action Plan for Control and Eradication of Glanders in India'.

To make matters worse, one more turned up positive on Wednesday, which spelt the death knell for racing this season. Although the season is cancelled, the road to recovery is an arduous one for the BTC. There are about 650 horses at BTC — one of the largest in the country — and now samples of each of them have to be sent to NRCE for testing thrice every 21 days. Only when all results come out negative in three cycles will BTC be declared a safe zone and all restrictions would be removed. Even one glanders positive means repeating the cycle.

Considering glanders is incurable and highly contagious — it can even spread to humans who work in close proximity with the affected animals — BTC will have to be extremely vigilant in dealing with the outbreak.

The Bangalore Turf Club on Friday cancelled the Winter Season after two horses tested positive for the deadly glanders disease. DH FILE PHOTO

Windies fight back after Conway special

MOUNT MAUNGANUI (NEW ZEALAND), AFP: Brandon King and John Campbell comfortably negotiated 23 overs in fading light before stumps to take the West Indies to 110/0 at the end of day two of the third Test after New Zealand declared on a mammoth 575/8 at Mount Maunganui.

The West Indies, with King unbeaten on 55 and Campbell not out 45, are still 465 runs behind.

New Zealand opener Devon Conway's epic 227 and some late hitting from Rachin Ravindra, who had six fours and two sixes in his 72 not out, and Ajaz Patel (30 not out) allowed captain Tom Latham to give his bowlers more than an hour at the West Indies openers.

But King and Campbell were more than up to the task, seeing off the new ball and scoring freely on a flat Bay Oval wicket as New Zealand's bowlers struggled to find a good length. King's 50 came from just 62 balls, hitting nine fours and Campbell's 45 was made from 60 deliveries, and included seven fours.

Brief scores: New Zealand (O/n: 334/1): 575/8 decl in 155 overs (Tom Latham 137, Devon Conway 227, Kane Williamson 31, Rachin Ravindra 72 n.o., Glenn Phillips 29, Ajaz Patel 30 n.o.) vs West Indies: 110/0 in 23 overs (John Campbell 45 n.o., Brandon King 55 n.o.).

Hometown hero Head crushes English hopes

ADELAIDE, AFP: Danger man Travis Head crunched his fourth century in as many Tests at the Adelaide Oval on Friday as Australia built a 356-run lead over England to stand on the brink of retaining the Ashes.

The hosts were 271/4 at stumps on day three of the third Test with Head on 142 and first-innings century-maker Alex Carey not out 52, taking the five-match series out of England's reach.

England must win after crashing inside two days at the first Test in Perth and inside four in Brisbane, both by eight wickets.

But it appears to be an impossible task with the highest run chase at the ground 316 by Australia against England in 1902.

Head's crucial ton, his 11th, came off a composed 146 balls although he almost didn't get there, dropped on 99 by Harry Brook as impatience got the better of him.

He has now scored a century in four consecutive Tests on his home ground, following 140 against India last year and 119 and 175 against the West Indies.

Australia suffered an early setback in a tense 20 minutes before lunch after England were all out for 286 on the back of Ben Stokes' gritty 83 in response to Australia's first innings 371.

Australia's Travis Head celebrates after scoring a century against England on Friday. AP/ PTI

Bryson Carse trapped Jake Weatherald lbw for one and he walked without reviewing after the umpire lifted his finger, although replays showed the ball was pitching outside leg stump.

It gave England a glimmer of hope, but after the break Head slammed the door shut, cutting and chopping boundaries to all corners of the ground.

Marnus Labuschagne went for 13 when he edged Josh Tongue to Harry Brook at slip, with reviews showing it carried.

Brief scores: Australia: 371 all out & 271/4 in 66 overs (Travis Head 142 n.o., Usman Khawaja 40, Alex Carey 52 n.o.) vs England: (O/n: 213/8) 286 all out in 87.2 overs (Ben Duckett 29, Harry Brook 45, Ben Stokes 83, Jofra Archer 51; Pat Cummins 3-69, Scott Boland 3-45, Nathan Lyon 2-70).

Burgos shock Getafe

MADRID, AP: Getafe became the latest top-division club to be eliminated in the round of 32 of the Copa del Rey, losing 3-1 to second-tier team Burgos.

Four other top-flight clubs failed to get past lower-division teams this week. Athletic Bilbao needed extra time to beat third-division Ourense 1-0 on Thursday.

Getafe took the lead with Alex Sancris in the 32nd minute, but the hosts rallied with David Gonzalez converting a penalty in first-half stoppage time and Inigo Cordoba adding a pair of second-half goals.

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DH DECCAN HERALD **Wknd.**

For that perfect Christmas cake...

● DEEPA DESAI
Home-baker

After baking, wrap the cooled cake tightly in parchment paper, then foil. Store in an airtight container for 3-5 days before serving. This aging allows flavours to deepen and marry beautifully. Brush with additional rum every two days if desired. Serve at room temperature with hot masala tea.

Quality of rum matters: Use a good aged rum. The fruits absorb not just alcohol, but the character of the rum itself.

Don't skip the aging: Those three to five days after baking allow the rum to permeate, spices to mellow and flavours to marry. Store in an airtight container and brush with rum every few days.

Plan ahead: The traditional long soak isn't just about moisture, it's about transformation. The fruits become something entirely new. Start in June or July next year and when December comes and you taste those fruits that have been quietly transforming for six months, you'll understand why it's done.

Advanced Interventional Pulmonology is reshaping lung care at Aster CMI Hospital

Patients with lung diseases receive comprehensive solutions tailored to their stage of disease and life goals at Aster CMI Hospital thanks to a multi-disciplinary approach. Dr Sunil Kumar K, consultant pulmonologist, lung transplant physician and critical care specialist, and a leading expert in interventional pulmonology in the country, elaborates

Lung diseases today are no longer limited to asthma or infections. And, treating complex interstitial lung diseases (ILD) and advanced lung cancer to drug-resistant tuberculosis and respiratory failure, pulmonology has evolved into a highly specialised, intervention-driven field.

The holistic approach to lung care at Aster CMI Hospital is shaped by a simple, but powerful idea - diagnosis and treatment must be precise, timely and centred on improving quality of life. In pulmonology, guessing is no longer acceptable. Early, accurate diagnosis changes everything, especially in lung cancer and ILD.

One of the biggest challenges in lung cancer care is late presentation. Nearly 70–75 per cent of patients in India are diagnosed at advanced stages, where survival drops sharply. Interventional pulmonology plays a critical role in reversing this trend. Using techniques such as endobronchial ultrasound (EBUS), advanced bronchoscopies and image-guided biopsies, doctors can accurately stage disease and guide targeted treatment. A stage-one lung cancer, when detected early, can have a five-year survival rate of up to 70–80 per cent, for example.

Dr Sunil Kumar K

Beyond cancer, ILD, a group of over 200 lung disorders characterised by scarring, is increasingly being diagnosed due to better imaging. However, identifying the exact subtype often requires specialised procedures such as cryo lung biopsy, which only a handful of centres in Bengaluru currently offer. At Aster CMI Hospital, these advanced diagnostic tools allow doctors to tailor treatment, slow disease progression and, when needed, plan for lung transplantation.

Interventional pulmonology

Interventional pulmonology also plays a vital role in improving quality of life for patients with advanced disease. Procedures such as airway debulking, stenting and pleuroscopy help relieve breathlessness, prevent infections and reduce repeated ICU admissions.

For many patients, the question is not just about survival. It's about whether they can walk, sleep and live with dignity.

Multi-disciplinary model sets Aster CMI apart

What sets Aster CMI Hospital apart is its truly multi-disciplinary model. Pulmonologists, thoracic surgeons, oncologists, intensivists, transplant teams and palliative care specialists work together to offer end-to-end care under one roof. From minimally-invasive robotic lung surgeries to advanced immunotherapy and lung transplantation, patients receive comprehensive solutions tailored to their stage of disease and life goals.

As pollution levels rise and respiratory illnesses become more common, the importance of awareness and early evaluation become crucial. Breathlessness, chronic cough or repeated infections should never be ignored. Timely consultation can make all the difference.

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An Iconic line up of
Celebrations
MARSHALL HAMBURGER LIVE
Fresh off his Australian Idol 25 win,
Marshall Hamburger touches down for his debut India tour.
Bengaluru's favourite band, The Adhir Punja Project,
opens the evening.
Inclusions: Live DJ | Emcee | Kids' Entertainment Zone
Add-on Experiences: Flea Market | Interactive Bar & Food Counter
27th December | 06:30 PM onwards
Venue: The Lawns
TOAST TO TOGETHERNESS
M CAFE
Welcome the New Year in warmth, flavour and shared moments.
Inclusions:
Lavish Spread of Global Cuisines | Classic Cocktails & Refined Beverages | Interactive Live Counters | Engaging Kids' Zone | Tarot Card Reading | Live Band
31st December | 08:00 PM onwards
THE VENETIAN DINNER
ALTO VINO
Alto Vino transforms into a Venetian escape, setting the stage for a seven-course Italian journey.
Inclusions:
A Curated Seven-course Set Menu |
A Selection of International Spirits | Venetian-themed Ambience | Soulful Live Music
31st December | 08:00 PM onwards
MOONLIT MOROCCAN
WHTFLD BAR & GRILL
Welcome the New Year in a luminous Moroccan-inspired setting, where warm tones, crafted details and a relaxed poolside charm create an unforgettable evening.
Inclusions:
Lavish Moroccan-themed Buffet | Bespoke Gin Cocktails | Enchanting Live Performances | Access To The New Year's Eve Party At The Lawns
31st December | 08:00 PM onwards
BOLLYWOOD ROYALE
THE LAWNS
New Year's Eve comes alive with nonstop Bollywood beats, vibrant energy and electric performances.
Inclusions:
Unlimited Buffet & Premium pours | Electric DJ beats through the night | Live Acts And Entertainment | Dhol
31st December | 08:00 PM onwards
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DH DECCAN HERALD
Wknd. WELLNESS

A typical winter dessert is rich in flavour and heavy in texture

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

DESSERT FACTS

This is the holiday season when you will be entertaining a lot at home. And what better than the dessert to impress your guests with? Go for warm desserts rather than the cold ice cream and pastries. On a cold evening, your guests will enjoying tucking into something warm and sweet such as a traditional Indian treat.

SPICE IT UP

The ideal option for a dessert on a cold winter night is something sweet with warming spices. If it's a dinner you are hosting, it is advisable to avoid chilled desserts. Go for something that has chocolate, seasonal fruits and spices such as cinnamon and ginger. It's bound to be a hit after dinner.

Delights with a persimmon twist!

Persimmon, the exotic and versatile fruit, is finding a place in many a dish with culinary enthusiasts experimenting with new flavours, writes Swatee Jog

If your fruit vendor has pushed for a fruit called 'Simran' of late, he's most likely referring to persimmon, also known locally and in some parts of India as Japanese fruit or Amarphal. This tomato-like fruit with a pumpkin-like colour - deep orange glow, honeyed flavour and custard-like texture, has long been cherished across east Asia, the Mediterranean and the Americas.

In recent years, this fruit has started gaining attention among growers and home gardeners in Bengaluru, thanks to the city's evolving horticultural scene and favourable microclimates. What adds to its allure is its sweetish taste that lends itself to several Indian and Western dishes alike.

How Bengaluru took to persimmon

While persimmon is not traditionally a south Indian fruit, Bengaluru's mild winters, moderate summers and diverse altitudes create an environment where certain varieties can thrive. The Indian Persimmon is being grown at many places in Bengaluru. Peri-urban farms near Kanakapura, Hosur belt and Devanahalli, and home gardeners in Whitefield, Yelahanka and Sarjapur Road, have begun experimenting with potted saplings.

Goodness of persimmon

- Exotic appeal with minimal maintenance
- High antioxidant content (rich in Vitamin A and C), potassium and manganese
- Great fruit for desserts, salads and artisanal cooking in fresh or dried form
- Grows well in gardens, on terraces and small urban orchards

Persimmon's natural sweetness and velvety texture make it incredibly versatile. You can prepare sweet dishes or add it to savoury ones too. The skin is quite thick, so you can opt to remove it.

With urban gardeners exploring rare fruits like rambutan, avocado and dragon fruit, and culinary enthusiasts seeking and patronising new flavours, persimmon is steadily growing in popularity. Its adaptability to Bengaluru's climate and its rich gastronomic potential make it a rising star in the city's farm-to-table movement.

Whether you grow it, cook with it, or simply enjoy its autumn glow, persimmon is a fruit worth celebrating, especially in this year-end season.

Persimmon and Millet Breakfast Bowl

A wholesome morning bowl for the health-conscious. Add foxtail millet cooked in almond milk, top it with chopped persimmon, roasted mix seeds, a drizzle of jaggery syrup or honey and a pinch of cinnamon.

Here are some unique, creative dishes that bring out this fruit's flavour beautifully

Persimmon delights to try at home

Persimmon Shrikhand

The Maharashtrian delicacy lends beautifully to sweet fruits such as mango, chikoo and persimmon. Blend whipped hung curd with pureed persimmon, a touch of cardamom, saffron strands and chopped pistachios. Use stevia if you wish, instead of sugar.

Persimmon Coconut Curry

A light south Indian-style curry that uses soft persimmon wedges simmered in a coconut base with ginger, pepper corns, green chilli, curry leaves and a hint of turmeric. Pairs beautifully with steamed rice or

Persimmon Garden Salad

A fresh, colourful salad using slightly raw sliced persimmon, rocket leaves, toasted almonds, crumbled feta and a honey-lime-ginger dressing. Can be part of lunch or a meal in itself when added with other vegetables and fruit slices.

Persimmon Basque Cheesecake

An indulgent dessert popular in upscale Bengaluru cafes. The usual cheesecake batter is swirled with persimmon puree, giving it a caramelised top and a warm, fruity aroma.

LEISURE

Beetle Bailey

IT'S SO ROMANTIC THE WAY YOU GAZE INTO MY EYES
I WAS LOOKING AT THE KETCHUP ON YOUR NOSE
GREG + MORT WALKER
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JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ARFDU

DWHIT

CCSAUT

NIOCCI

Would you like a try?
I heard about these paper birds.
Everyone's talking about them.
10/19
AFTER THE KITE WAS INVENTED, PEOPLE DIDN'T TAKE LONG TO ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @Play Jumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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Answers

After the kite was invented, people didn't take long to — CATCH WIND OF IT

FRAUD WIDTH CACTUS ICONIC

HITORI-126

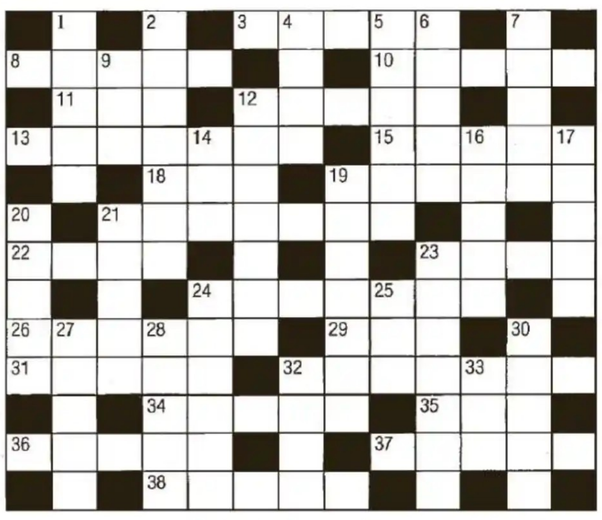
6	3	7	5	6	2	6	1
1	1	6	6	5	4	2	8
3	5	3	7	4	6	6	6
8	2	5	6	3	1	7	2
3	1	4	8	6	7	6	6
2	8	6	4	6	6	5	7
7	3	2	1	3	3	4	3
4	7	6	6	1	6	3	5

SOLUTION for HITORI-126

5	3	■	1	6	■	7	4
■	4	3	■	1	2	■	7
7	5	■	6	4	■	8	2
6	■	7	■	8	4	1	3
2	7	1	3	■	5	■	8
■	6	■	4	7	3	5	■
8	2	4	5	■	6	■	1
1	■	2	■	5	7	3	6

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 127



EASY

ACROSS
3 Rapidity (5)
8 Donkey (5)
10 Rot (5)
11 Raised edge (3)
12 Jeans fabric (5)
13 Small tree (7)
15 Teacher (5)
18 Rodent (3)
19 Aureole (6)
21 Obstruction (7)
22 Herb (4)
23 Pare (4)
24 Wine merchant (7)
26 Neckwear item (6)
29 Ventilate (3)
31 Very strong person (5)
32 Guilty person (7)
34 Indian instrument (5)
35 Insulate (3)
36 Naked figures (5)
37 One with leprosy (5)
38 Protect from sunlight (5)

DOWN
1 Antitoxin (5)
2 Naval commander (7)
4 Jetty (4)
5 Newspaper boss (6)
6 Object (5)
7 Truncheon (5)
9 Racket (3)
12 American city (7)
14 Standard (3)
16 Turret (5)
17 Recover strength (5)
19 Mythical creature (7)
20 Decree (5)
21 Baa (5)
23 Bewilder (7)
24 Disappear (6)
25 Nothing (3)
27 Tear to pieces (3,2)
28 Urns (5)
30 Big cat (5)
32 Thick paper (4)
33 Knock (3)

CRYPTIC

ACROSS
3 GBS left something warm (5)
8 Not able to have wild fun with the thing (5)
10 One who walked with Isaac in the outskirts of Hanover? (5)
11 Many a seaman is a natural swimmer (3)
12 It may be a squash (5)
13 The good you can get from a beef tin (7)
15 Hurl a drunkard out of the house (5)
18 Hastened to get organised? (3)
19 Picture with no great drama (6)
21 Michael took Fay round the academy (7)
22 Ground in the Po valley (4)
23 For one's own part, it sounds vain (4)
24 Lean, slightly? (7)
26 Like the pale faces of seven sisters (6)
29 Heavy weight? Perhaps not (3)
31 Healthy town for an inexpert driver to be in? (5)
32 Figures in a deal relating to currency (7)
34 What he has, makes him what he is (5)
35 Initial insult that can make a chap weep? (3)
36 Do what's colourful but unoriginal (5)
37 Old Bill, or Robert (5)
38 A cold one, four-fifths ice? (5)

DOWN
1 Mountainous piece of land to the east and south (5)
2 Politician a long time getting a bill out, possibly (7)
4 Hotheaded fellow, this beast? (4)
5 Drink is the reason to accept some risk (6)
6 Figure an article to be flexible (5)
7 A drink for me and the medico (5)
9 Tiffany's great admirer (3)
12 Coming last is not applicable in the case of a young horse (7)
14 A long journey – and not even full fare! (3)
16 Second choice of potherbs (5)
17 Object when you have a bad night (5)
19 Go slowly, when there's wild unrest around mid-May (7)
20 Can such a song be enlightening? (5)
21 It's deadly being an overweight little man (5)
23 Meat can be a sin, put in the wrong oven (7)
24 Joint holder (6)
25 Semi-docile professional person (3)
27 Ran hard, about to finish the race (5)
28 Dolly possibly partnered by George (5)
30 Bat flying up past a cat (5)
32 Cleric from Aden? (4)
33 Gang helping to make a bomb go up? (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 127

EASY
ACROSS: 3 Speed; 8 Neddy; 10 Decay; 11 Rim; 12 Denim; 13 Juniper; 15 Tutor; 18 Rat; 19 Corona; 21 Barrier; 22 Dill; 23 Peel; 24 Vintner; 26 Cravat; 29 Air; 31 Titan; 32 Culprit; 34 Sitar; 35 Lag; 36 Nudes; 37 Leper; 38 Shade.
DOWN: 1 Serum; 2 Admiral; 4 Pier; 5 Editor; 6 Demur; 7 Baton; 9 Din; 12 Detroit; 14 Par; 16 Tower; 17 Rally; 19 Centaur; 20 Edict; 21 Bleat; 23 Perplex; 24 Vanish; 25 Nil; 27 Rip up; 28 Vases; 30 Tiger; 32 Card; 33 Rap.

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 3, Shaw-L 8, Unf-it 10, H-like-r 11, D-AB 12, Fruit 13, Benefit 15, S-ho-ot 18, Ran 19, Sketch 21, Fa-RADA-y 22, Oval 23, Vein 24, Slender 26, Chalky 29, Ton 31, Ha-L-ie 32, De-CIM-al 34, Owner 35, S.O.B. 36, Redye 37, Bobby 38, D-rink.
DOWN: 1, And-ES 2, Lib-era-l 4, H-Art 5, Wh-isk-y 6, Li-the 7, Medoc 9, Fan 12, Fi-na-lly 14, Far 16, Other 17, Thing 19, S-a-unter 20, Torch 21, Fat-Al 23, Ve-nis-on 24, Skewer 25, Doc 27, Har-e-d 28, Lloyd 30, Tab-by 32, Dean 33, Mob (rev.).

HITORI-126

6	3	7	5	6	2	6	1
1	1	6	6	5	4	2	8
3	5	3	7	4	6	6	6
8	2	5	6	3	1	7	2
3	1	4	8	6	7	6	6
2	8	6	4	6	6	5	7
7	3	2	1	3	3	4	3
4	7	6	6	1	6	3	5

SOLUTION for HITORI-126

5	3	■	1	6	■	7	4
■	4	3	■	1	2	■	7
7	5	■	6	4	■	8	2
6	■	7	■	8	4	1	3
2	7	1	3	■	5	■	8
■	6	■	4	7	3	5	■
8	2	4	5	■	6	■	1
1	■	2	■	5	7	3	6

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

nexus VEGA CITY

nexus KORAMANGALA

THIS DECEMBER, CHRISTMAS DOESN'T JUST ARRIVE, IT COMES ALIVE AT NEXUS.

This festive season, if there's one place in South and Central Bengaluru that truly captures the magic of Christmas for families, it's at Nexus Vega City & Nexus Koramangala.

NEXUS VEGA CITY

Step into an **Elf Village, meet a 23ft Elf,** where magic, music and smiles fill every corner.

NEXUS KORAMANGALA

A glowing 32ft Christmas Reindeer, festive markets and nine days of celebration, Christmas finds its heart here.

Over at **Nexus Vega City,** Christmas unfolds inside a whimsical **Elf Village,** complete with colourful lights, playful décor and surprises around every corner. A **23ft tall Elf installation** welcomes visitors into a festive wonderland, making it a must-click photo spot. Kids can dress up as elves and receive sweet surprises, while families enjoy a lively mix of music nights, magic shows, workshops, Santa flash mobs and cheerful parades. The **Christmas Bazaar** adds to the charm, offering unique gifts, seasonal treats and warm holiday vibes that make lingering a joy.

DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

DATE	NEXUS KORAMANGALA	NEXUS VEGA CITY
21	Anuj Dimri Concert & Stilt Walker	Santa Flashmob
22	Make Your Own Christmas Tree	Christmas Workshop
23	Cake Mixing & Decoration Lab	Juggling Act
24	Carol Singing, Santa Parade, Meet & Greet	Santa Meet & Greet
25	Meet Santa & His Elves, Gift Giveaways	Santa Parade
26	Musical Evening	Musical Evening
27	Drum Jam	Winter Beauty Masterclass
28	Stomp the Grapes & Kids Fashion Show	Live Acoustic Session

At **Nexus Koramangala,** Christmas arrives in grand style. A **32ft towering illuminated Christmas Reindeer,** surrounded by floating stars and winter-inspired motifs, stands as a glowing festive landmark that instantly sets the mood for celebration. The experience extends into a vibrant **Christmas Flea Market,** where festive décor, gifts, gourmet treats and handcrafted finds come together under twinkling lights. What truly brings the season alive is a packed nine-day calendar of activations, which ranges from carol singing and creative workshops to Santa parades, musical evenings and high-energy performances, which ensures that every visit offers something new for families and young adults.

DH DECCAN HERALD
Wknd. LEISURE

Study weather conditions before planning a holiday that has extensive outdoor activity.

TRAVEL SMART

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

PLAN WITH OPTIONS

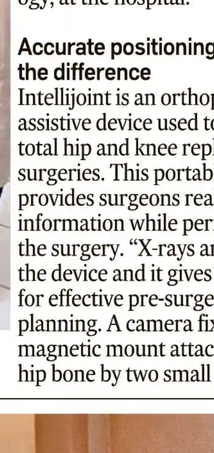
A quick holiday plan can be a lot of fun too. It's all in the planning. Stay flexible and have a Plan B in place in case you don't get the reservations you prefer. Check for options close to your destination in advance. Travel light to make check-in and check-out easy – it saves valuable time.

GO FOR FAMILIAR FOOD

It's always better to go with the food you are used to rather than try exotic cuisines that may upset your stomach. A bad stomach on a holiday is a spoiler. Fruits are a great snack in between meals if you need one. Stay away from beverages you are not sure about.

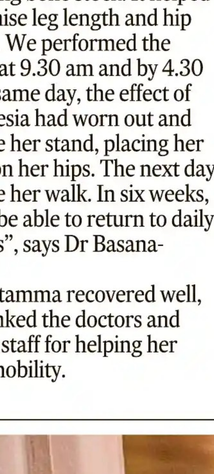
First Intellijoint-assisted total hip replacement performed at Sagar Hospital

A 50-year-old lady, Shantamma, came to Sagar Hospital, Jayanagar, with a chronic and disabling pain in her right hip. The pain had progressed increasingly over the last two years. Investigations at the Sagar Hospital comprising an MRI and analysis by orthopaedic surgeons revealed avascular necrosis of femoral head – reduced blood supply to the ball of her hip joint.



Dr Praveen Basanagoudar

Dr Surendra L



Dr C R Chandrashekhara

The reduced blood supply caused the pain along with significant reduction in mobility and a pronounced limp. She was advised a total hip replacement surgery. While this would have meant a long stay in the hospital and a major surgery recovering extensive post-operative physiotherapy to bring back normal mobility earlier, the talent and technology at Sagar Hospital presented a different picture. Intellijoint, a device that makes hip and knee replacement surgeries significantly more effective and efficient, made all the difference. This device was used for the first time in Bengaluru.

Shantamma walks just hours after the surgery.

Shantamma had right total hip replacement on December 18, 2025. It was performed by Dr Praveen Basanagoudar, Senior Consultant - Orthopaedic and Joint Replacement Surgeon, Sagar Hospitals, and Dr Surendra L, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon. It was performed under regional anaesthesia administered by Dr C R Chandrashekara, Head of Department of Anaesthesiology, at the hospital.

Accurate positioning makes the difference

Intellijoint is an orthopaedic-assistive device used to perform total hip and knee replacement surgeries. This portable device provides surgeons real-time information while performing the surgery. "X-rays are fed to the device and it gives us data for effective pre-surgery planning. A camera fixed on a magnetic mount attached to the hip bone by two small pins gives us real-time data on measurements during surgery. While earlier the surgeon had to estimate the measurements based on experience, now we get the exact numbers. This helps us position the ball exactly as required to restore painless and comfortable movement without a limp", explains Dr Praveen Basanagoudar. Also, this device does not call for extensive CT scans, thereby reducing exposure to radiation.

On the surgery performed on Shantamma, he explains, "The Intellijoint device helped in accurate cup positioning with minimal bone removal, preserving bone stock. It helped us optimise leg length and hip stability. We performed the surgery at 9.30 am and by 4.30 pm the same day, the effect of anaesthesia had worn out and we made her stand, placing her weight on her hips. The next day we made her walk. In six weeks, she will be able to return to daily activities", says Dr Basanagoudar.

Shantamma recovered well, and thanked the doctors and hospital staff for helping her regain mobility.

RESEARCH FIRST

Read up about the places you are visiting before you leave. It always helps to know what to expect and the places that must be your top priority. Visit places of interest that are specific to the destination you are going to. Speak to local guides for some insights.

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PERSONAL

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Lucy D'Souza** W/o James Victor D'Souza, R/at No. 547/18, 15th Cross, 15th Main, A-Block, Sahakaranagar, Bangalore-560092, have changed my name to **LUCY FERNANDES** vide affidavit dated 03.12.2025 before notary L.B. Anusuyamma, Bangalore. Henceforth I shall be called **LUCY FERNANDES** only

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CHANGE OF NAME
I, SUBA. P (DOB: 22-05-1980) W/o Mr. Harikrishnan. K, R/o: # 6/2, 5th Cross, Chitra Layout, Attur, Yelahanka New Town, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560064, have changed my name from **SUBA. P to SUBHA HARIKRISHNAN** Vide Affidavit dated: 19-12-2025, sworn to before Notary Public G.P. CHAYA, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Prabhakar Reddy, Prabhakar Reddy P and P Prabhakar Reddy, residing at No. 71, Ajantha House, Chowdeshwari Street, Marathahalli, Bangalore-560037, declare that the above names pertain to me only & henceforth I shall be known as **P PRABHAKAR REDDY** vide affidavit dated 19.12.2025 before notary Harisha G Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called **SAHAYA MARY** only.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SAHAYA MARY FERNANDES**, residing at No. G-4, 16th Cross, Gupta Building, Ejipura, Viveknagar Post, Bengaluru - 560047, have changed my name to **SAHAYA MARY** vide affidavit dated 19.12.2025 before notary Harisha G Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called **SAHAYA MARY** only.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SYEDA ASHRAF UNNISA & SYDA ASHRAF UNNISA**, W/o Mohammed Afzal Shariff, residing at No.52/A, 9th Cross, Jamia Masjid Road, Ilyas Nagar, Bengaluru - 560078, declare that the above names pertain to me only. Henceforth I shall be known as **SYEDA ASHRAF UNNISA**, vide affidavit 18.12.2025 before notary L. Puttaraju, Bengaluru

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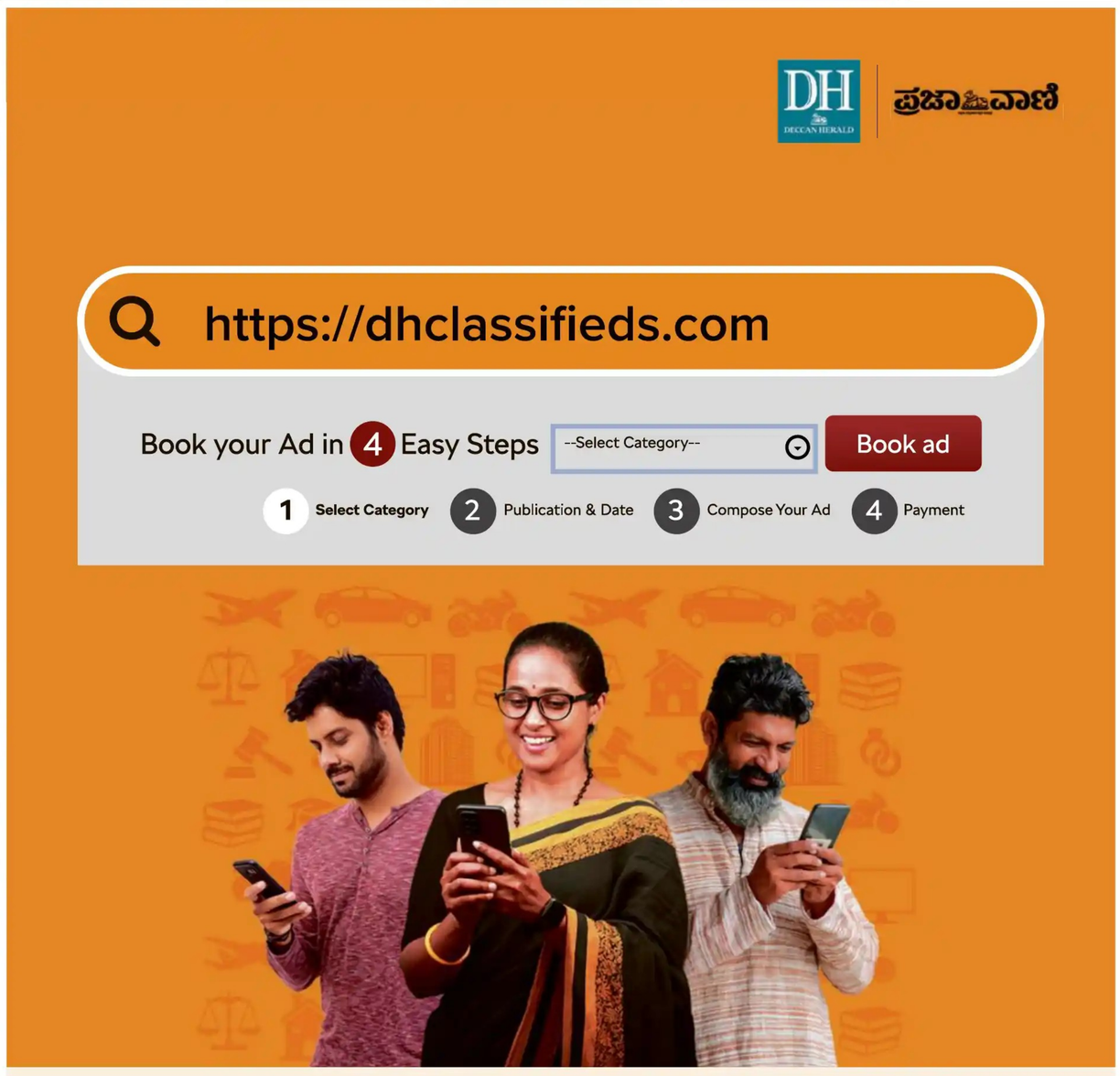

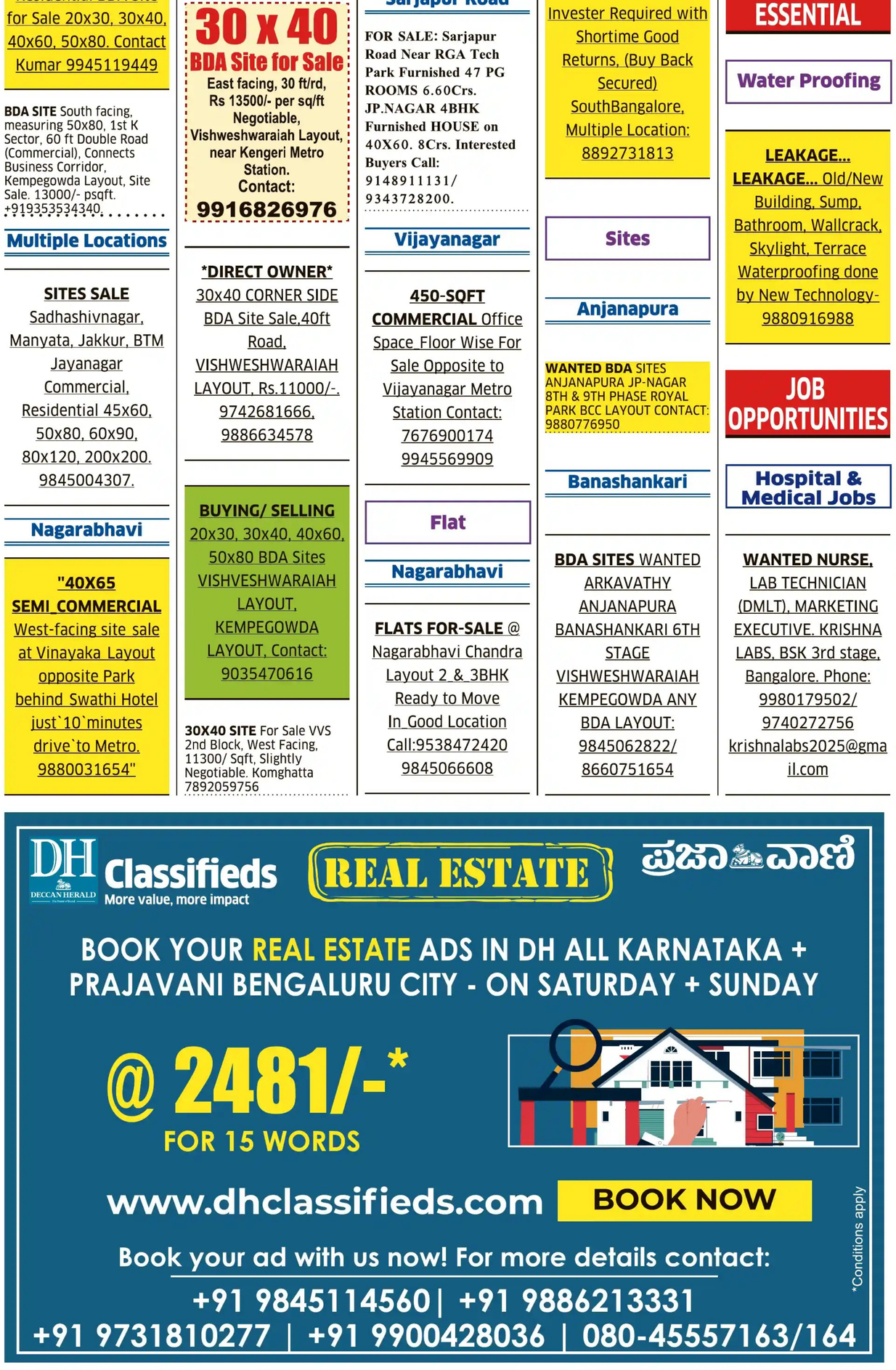
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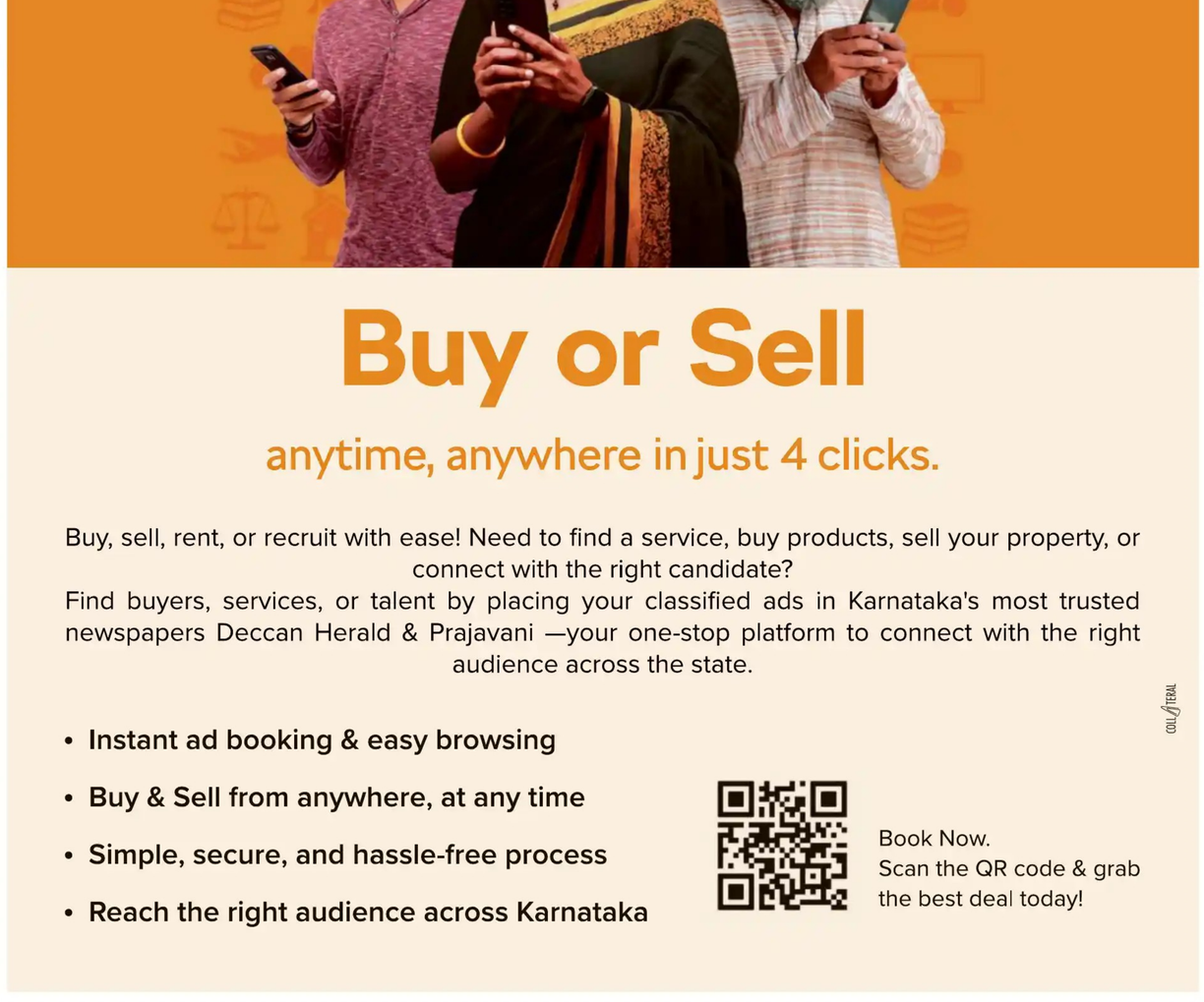
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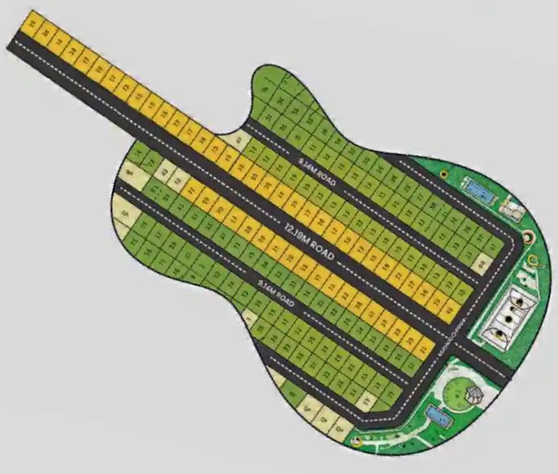

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